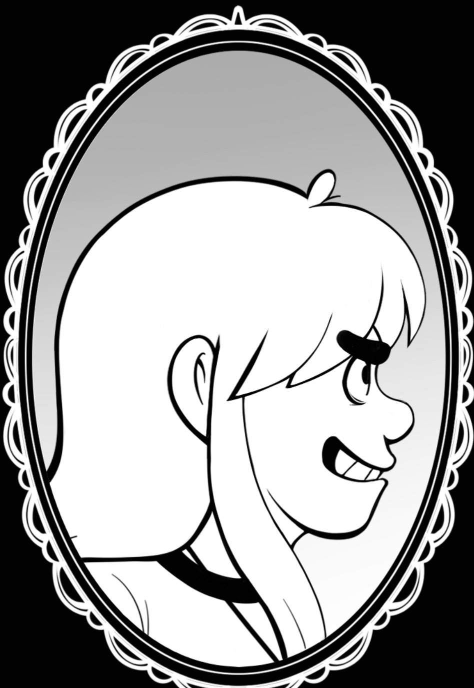
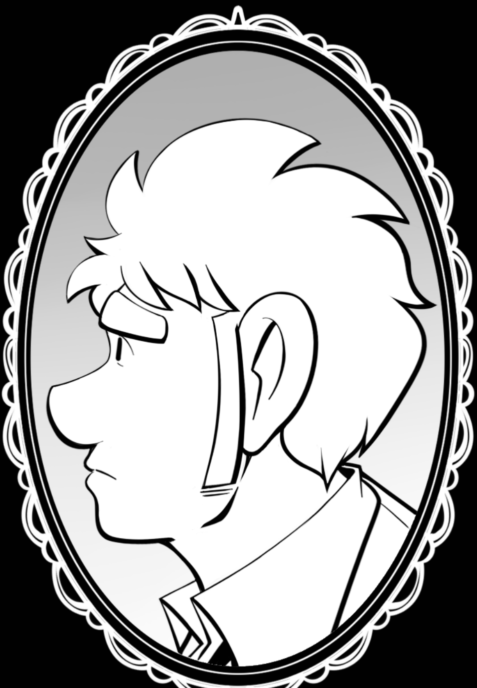
BEESMYGOD'S

A GHOST STORY



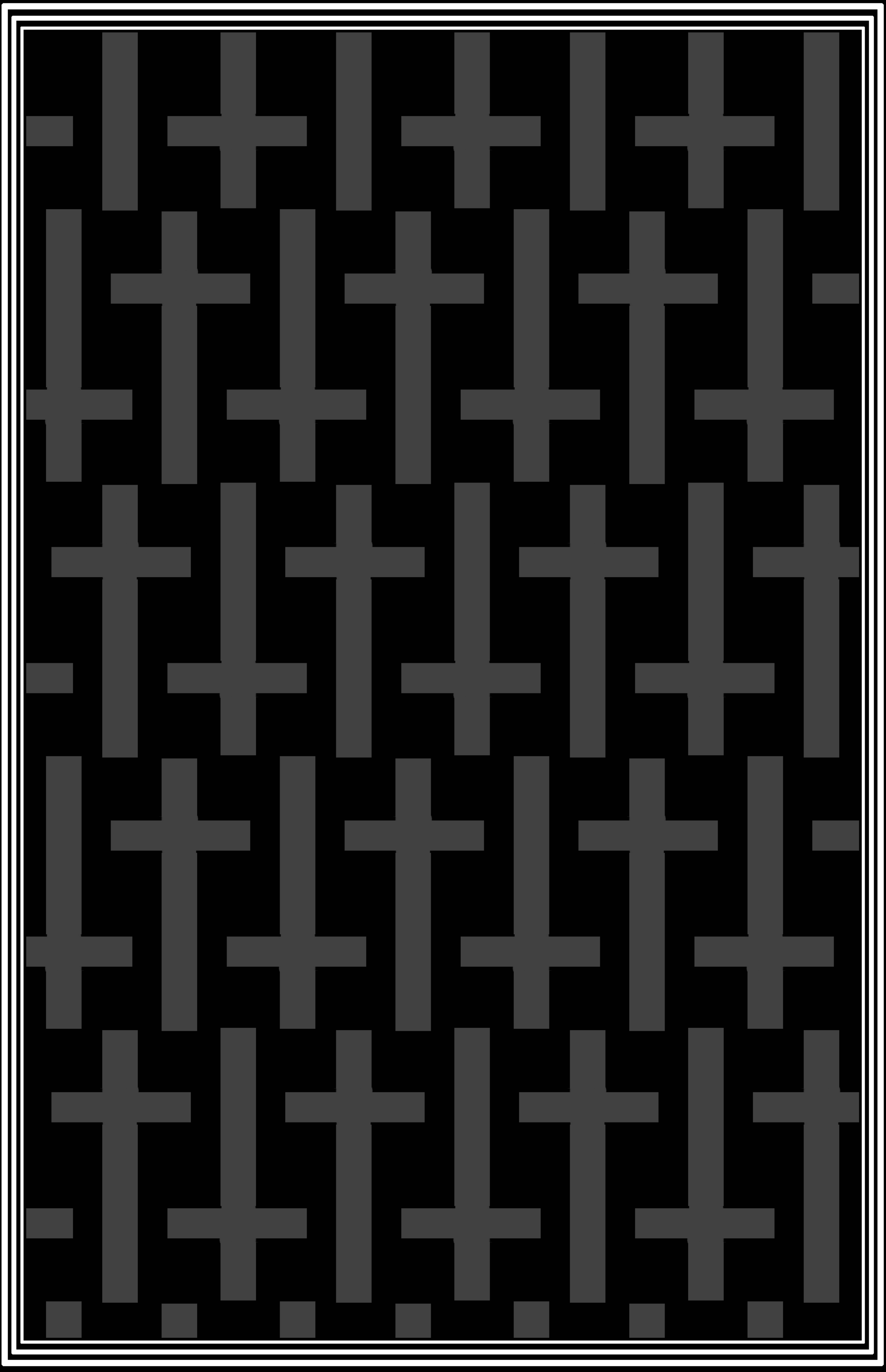


MAXINE
GOTTWIN

JACK
HENDERSON

"IN THE BLACK"

BOOK I, CHAPTER I



i’m struggling to write an intro.

how do you avoid being too maudlin about your “life’s work” when you’re fully aware that the next 50-ish pages revolve around two of the dumbest cartoon individuals put to pen doing poorly conveyed actions to one another.

“a ghost story” is a webcomic that, at one point, was intended to be a “monster-of-the-week” serial pulp adventure with an overarching mystery. this framework still loosely hangs over the comic’s development, but (as nearly all webcomics do) the plot has shifted focus significantly. originally meant to highlight regional and cultural ghosts with dark comedy, i realized what i really wanted to do was character studies and explorations into the lives of the awful people i was using to try to understand my own relationships (and myself). it’s ostensibly about jack and maxine fighting ghosts and uncovering a grand conspiracy, but (i think, i hope) it’s also about how people struggle with each other and with a world (cartoonishly) indifferent to death. despite all of that, what i really want to do is make people laugh. so, you know.

it’s funny (one hopes).

this redraw was started in 2018 with the hopes of a phyiscal print (the original pages would require extensive editing for print regardless) and better reflects the tone and direction of the comic as a whole.

i don’t think it’s possible to briefly explain the relationship i have with this comic and any attempts, i think, would read as overwrought and insincere given the execution of the work. i find it difficult to look at my old pages without physically wincing at the artistic ineptitude and clumsy writing that’s a natural consequence of learning as you go. i am told other people do not have this reaction to my comic. i hope this is true and this **complete redraw and rewrite of the first chapter** does not bring you undue psychic damage.

i love my job. thank you for making it possible and for helping me break the golden rule of webcomics: never redraw your old pages.

-bea

thank you to all

329 individual donors

on patreon who made

this possible

and

thank you to

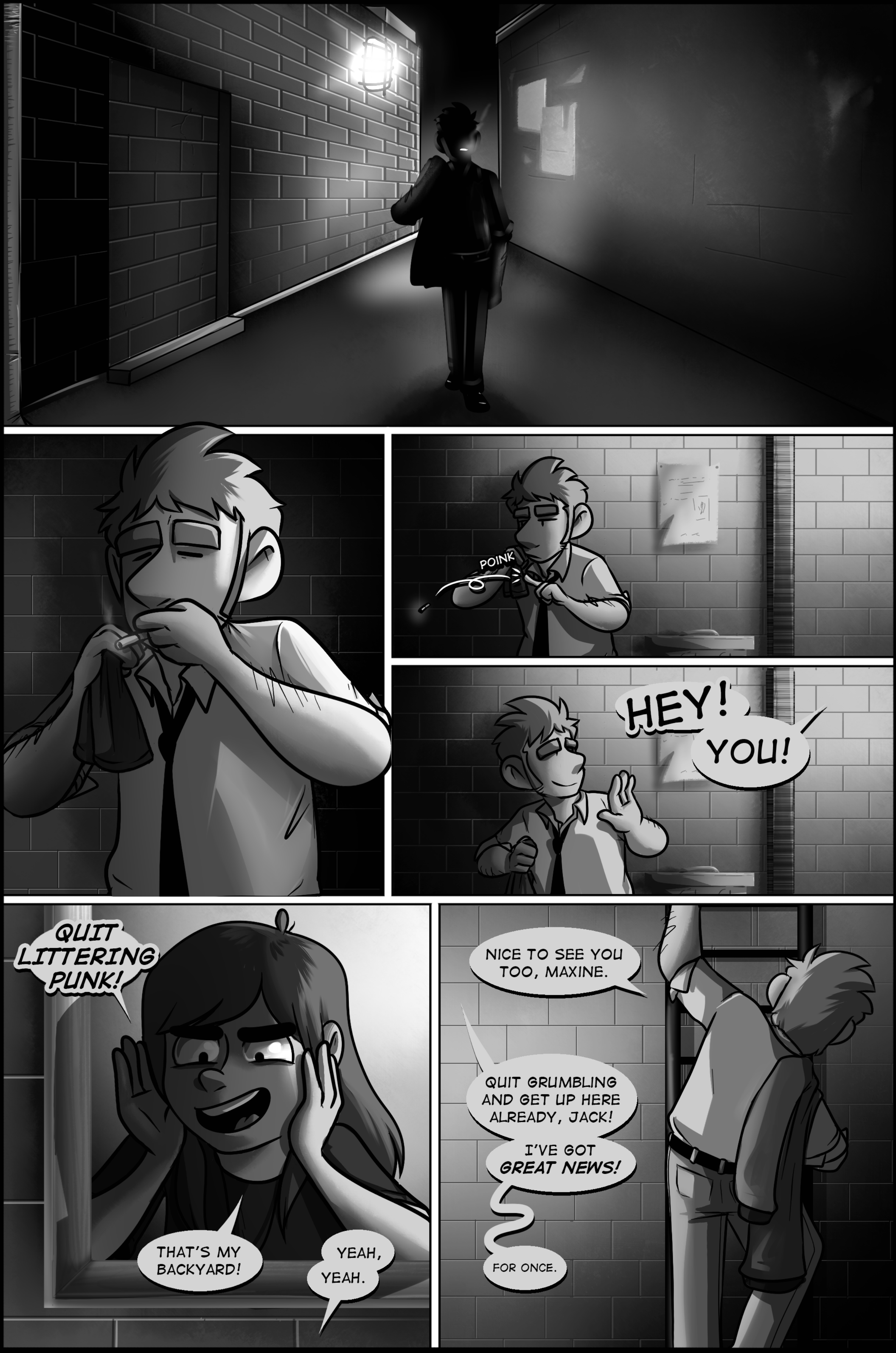
all the readers of my comic,

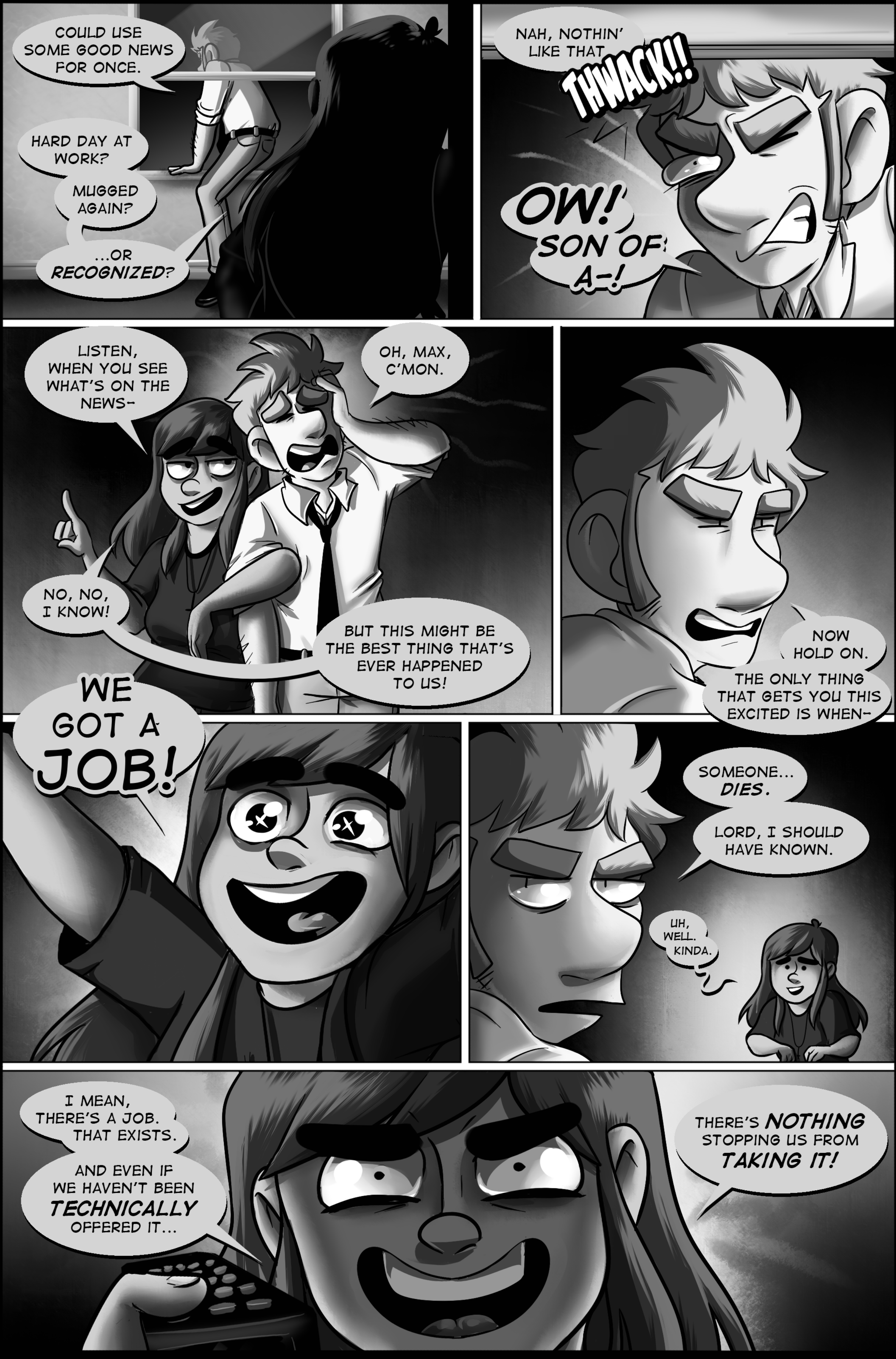
then and now.

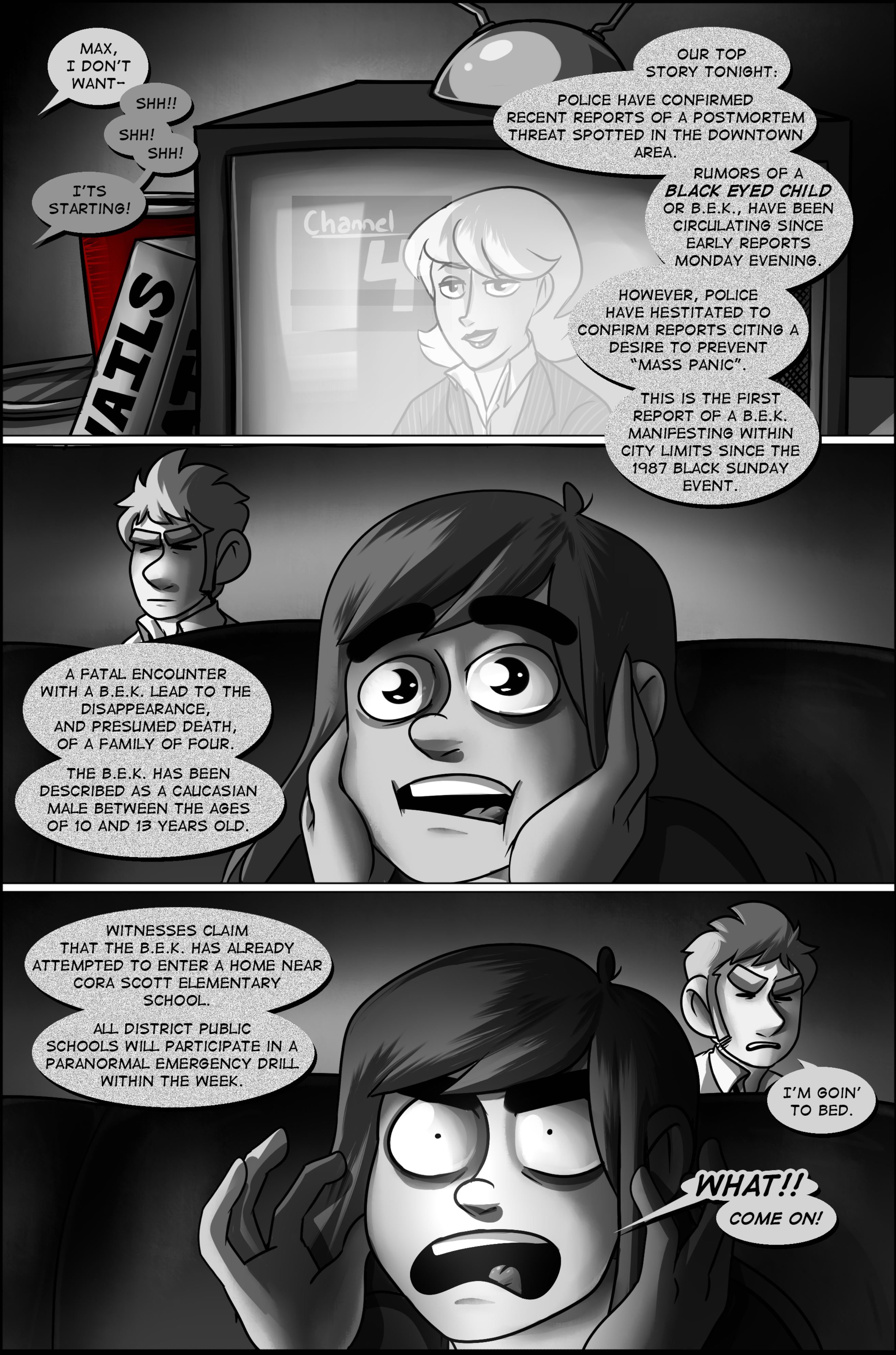
you brought me back from the dead.

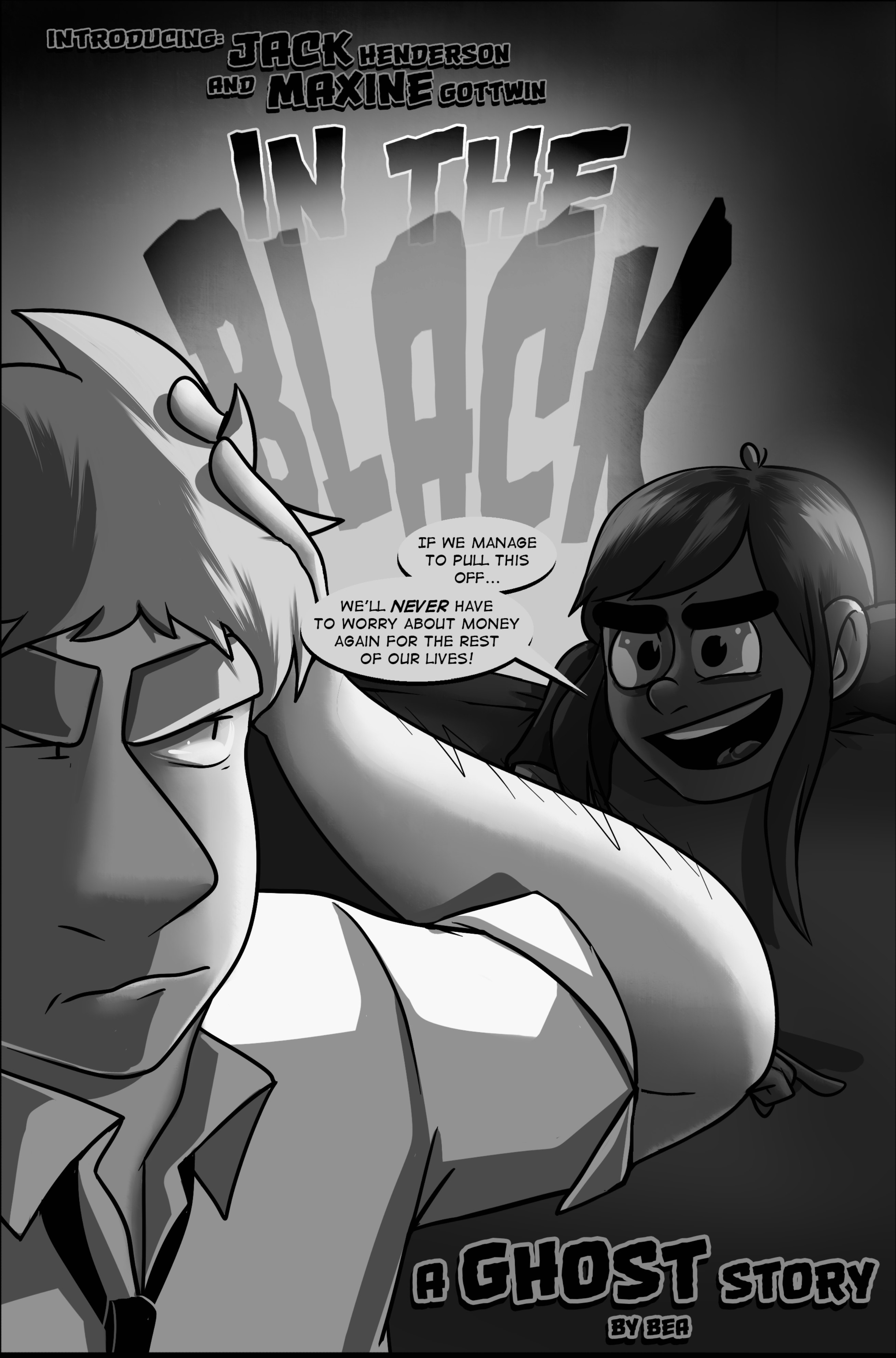
Book I

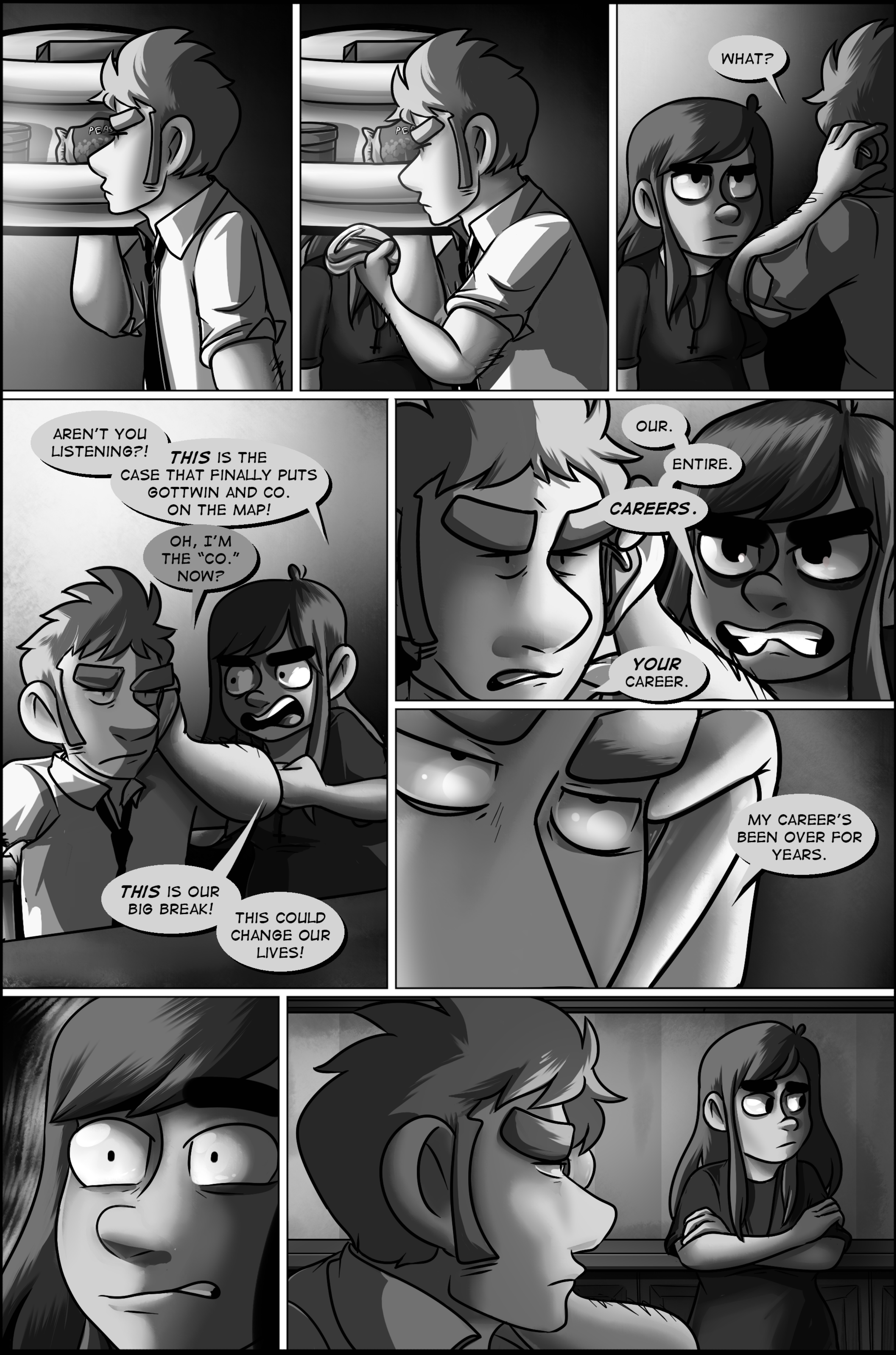
Chapter I

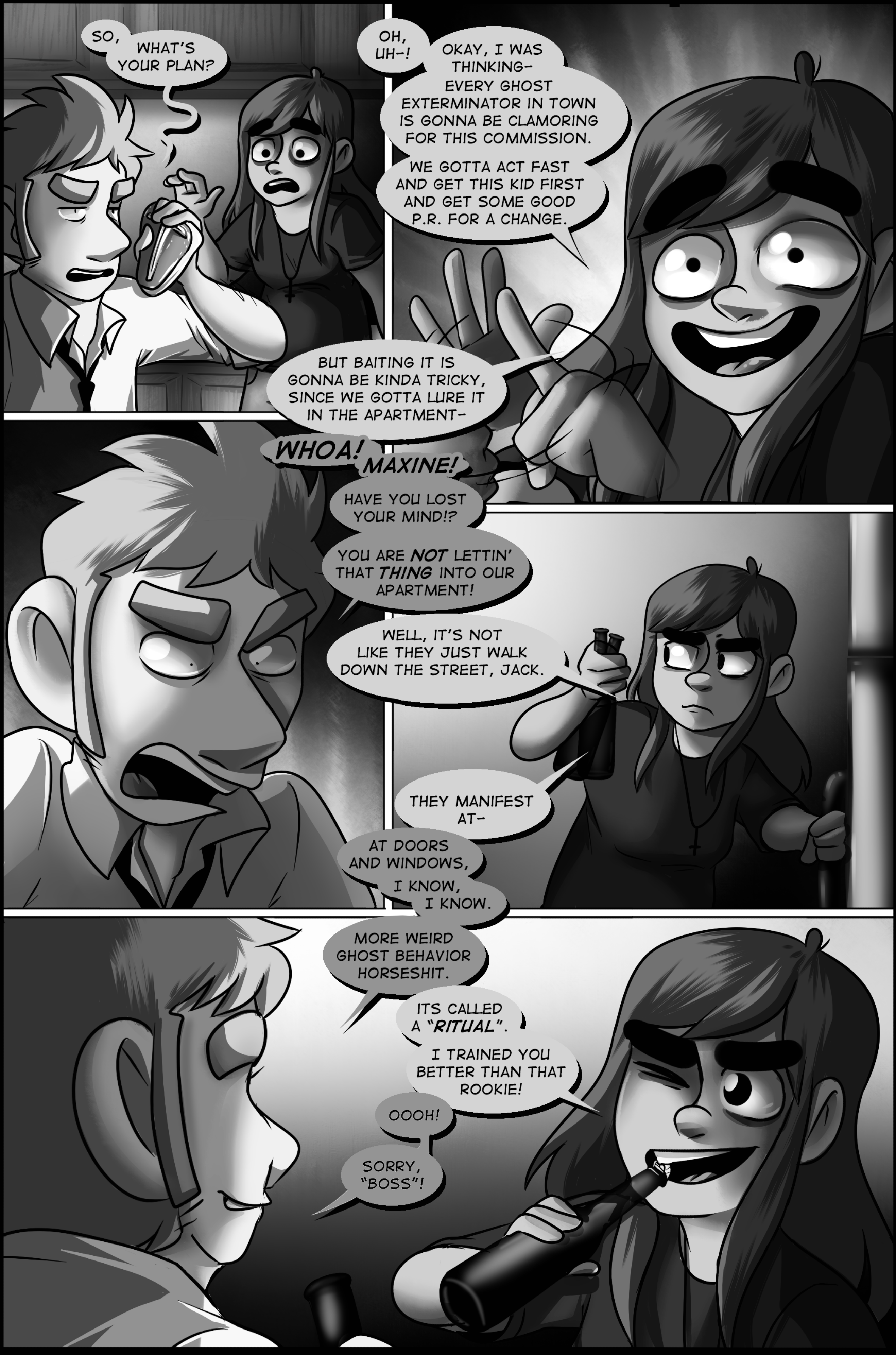

POINK
HEY!
YOU!
QUIT LITTERING PUNK!
THAT'S MY BACKYARD!
YEAH, YEAH.
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, MAXINE.
QUIT GRUMBLING AND GET UP HERE ALREADY, JACK!
I'VE GOT *GREAT NEWS!*
FOR ONCE.

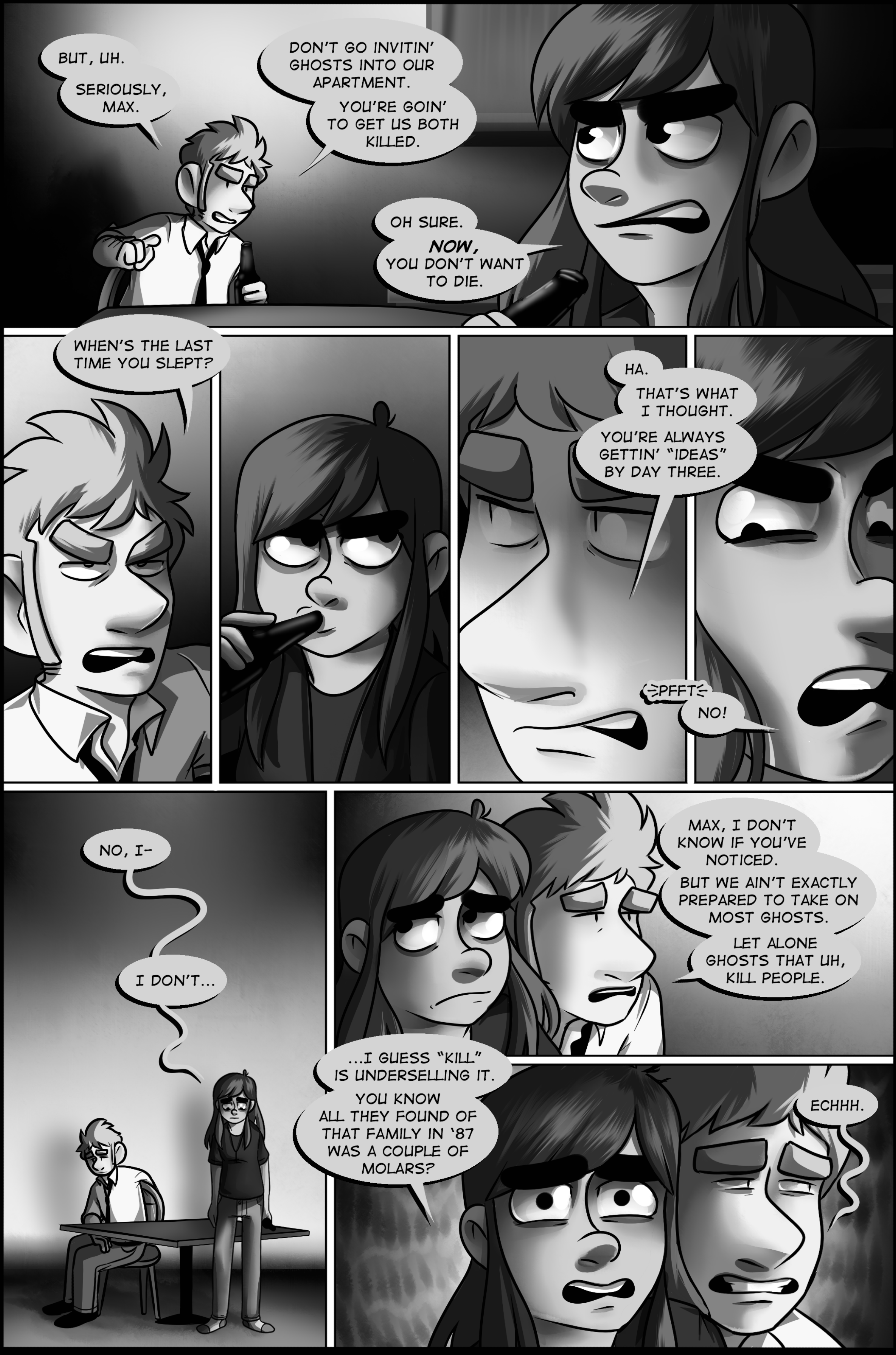

COULD USE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR ONCE.
HARD DAY AT WORK?
MUGGED AGAIN?
...OR *RECOGNIZED?*
NAH, NOTHIN' LIKE THAT
THWACK!!
OW! SON OF A-!
LISTEN, WHEN YOU SEE WHAT'S ON THE NEWS-
OH, MAX, C'MON.
NO, NO, I KNOW!
BUT THIS MIGHT BE THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO US!
NOW HOLD ON.
THE ONLY THING THAT GETS YOU THIS EXCITED IS WHEN-
WE GOT A JOB!
SOMEONE... *DIES.*
LORD, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
UH, WELL. KINDA.
I MEAN, THERE'S A JOB. THAT EXISTS.
AND EVEN IF WE HAVEN'T BEEN *TECHNICALLY* OFFERED IT...
THERE'S *NOTHING* STOPPING US FROM *TAKING IT!*

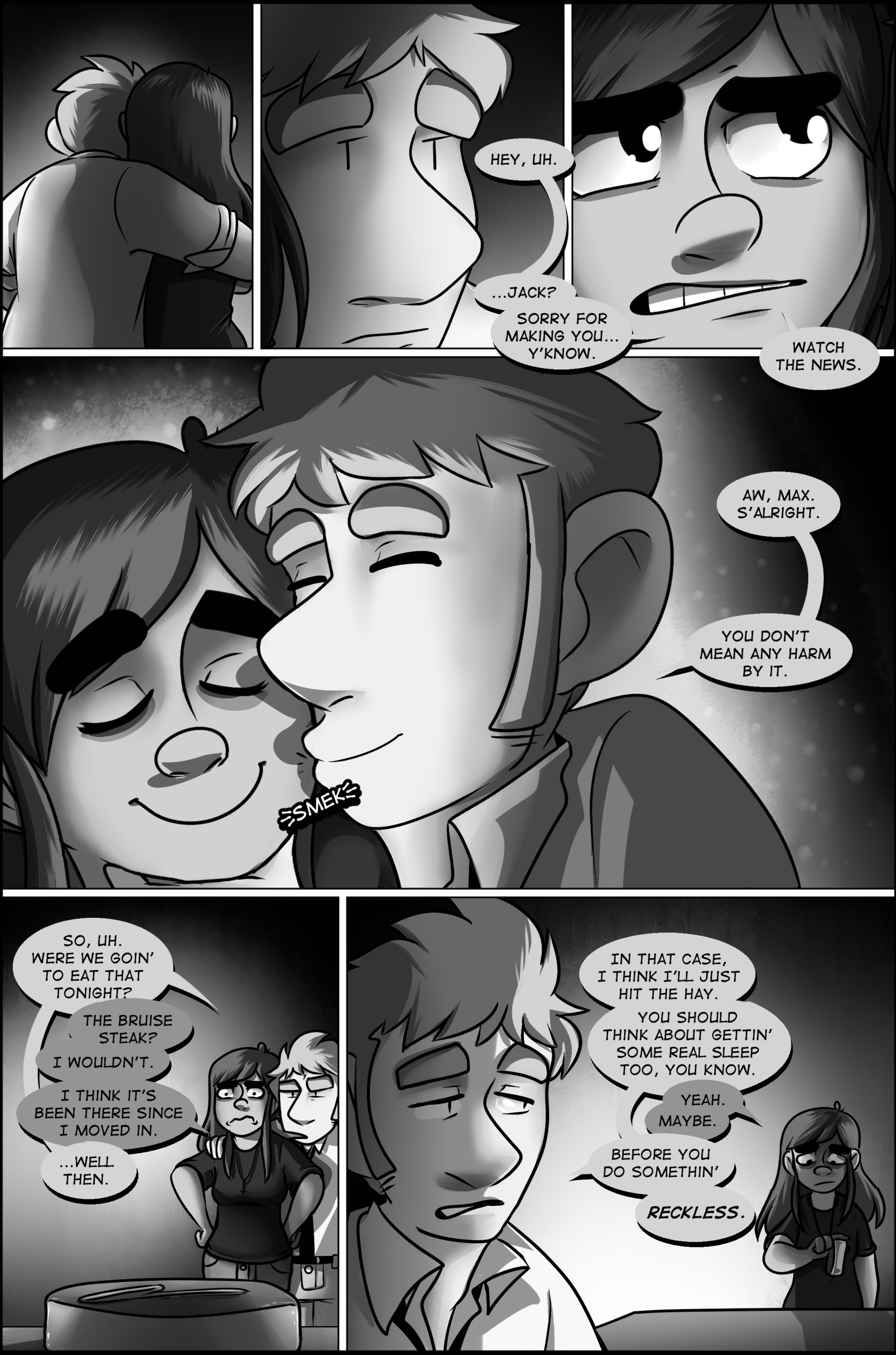

MAX, I DON'T WANT-
SHH!!
SHH! SHH!
I'TS STARTING!
OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT:
POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED RECENT REPORTS OF A POSTMORTEM THREAT SPOTTED IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.
RUMORS OF A *BLACK EYED CHILD* OR B.E.K., HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING SINCE EARLY REPORTS MONDAY EVENING.
HOWEVER, POLICE HAVE HESTITATED TO CONFIRM REPORTS CITING A DESIRE TO PREVENT "MASS PANIC".
THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT OF A B.E.K. MANIFESTING WITHIN CITY LIMITS SINCE THE 1987 BLACK SUNDAY EVENT.
Channel 4
NAILS
A FATAL ENCOUNTER WITH A B.E.K. LEAD TO THE DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRESUMED DEATH, OF A FAMILY OF FOUR.
THE B.E.K. HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A CAUCASIAN MALE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 13 YEARS OLD.
WITNESSES CLAIM THAT THE B.E.K. HAS ALREADY ATTEMPTED TO ENTER A HOME NEAR CORA SCOTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
ALL DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A PARANORMAL EMERGENCY DRILL WITHIN THE WEEK.
I'M GOIN' TO BED.
WHAT!! COME ON!

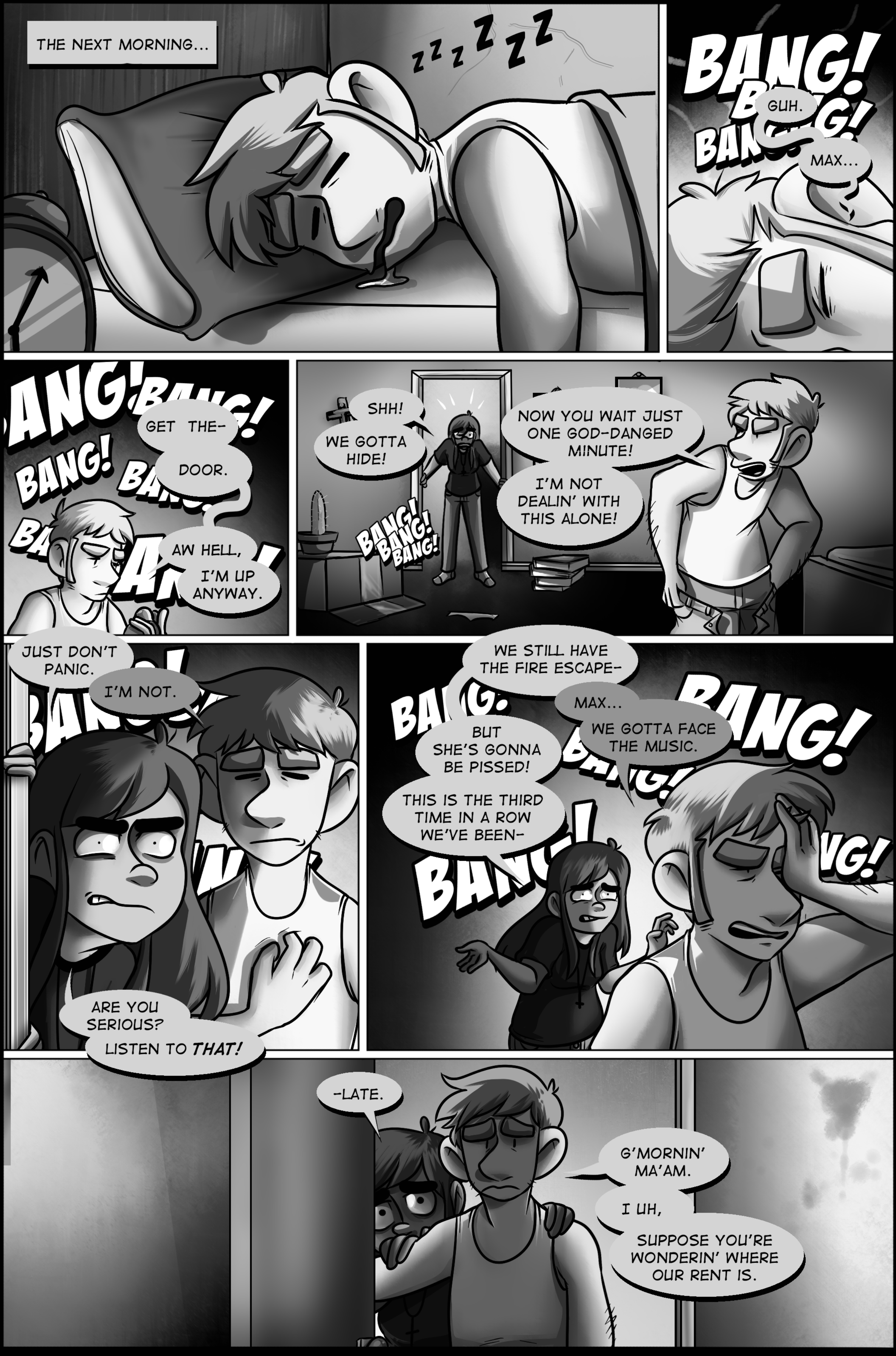

INTRODUCING: JACK HENDERSON
AND MAXINE GOTTWIN
IN THE BLACK
IF WE MANAGE TO PULL THIS OFF...
WE'LL *NEVER* HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY AGAIN FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
A GHOST STORY
BY BEA

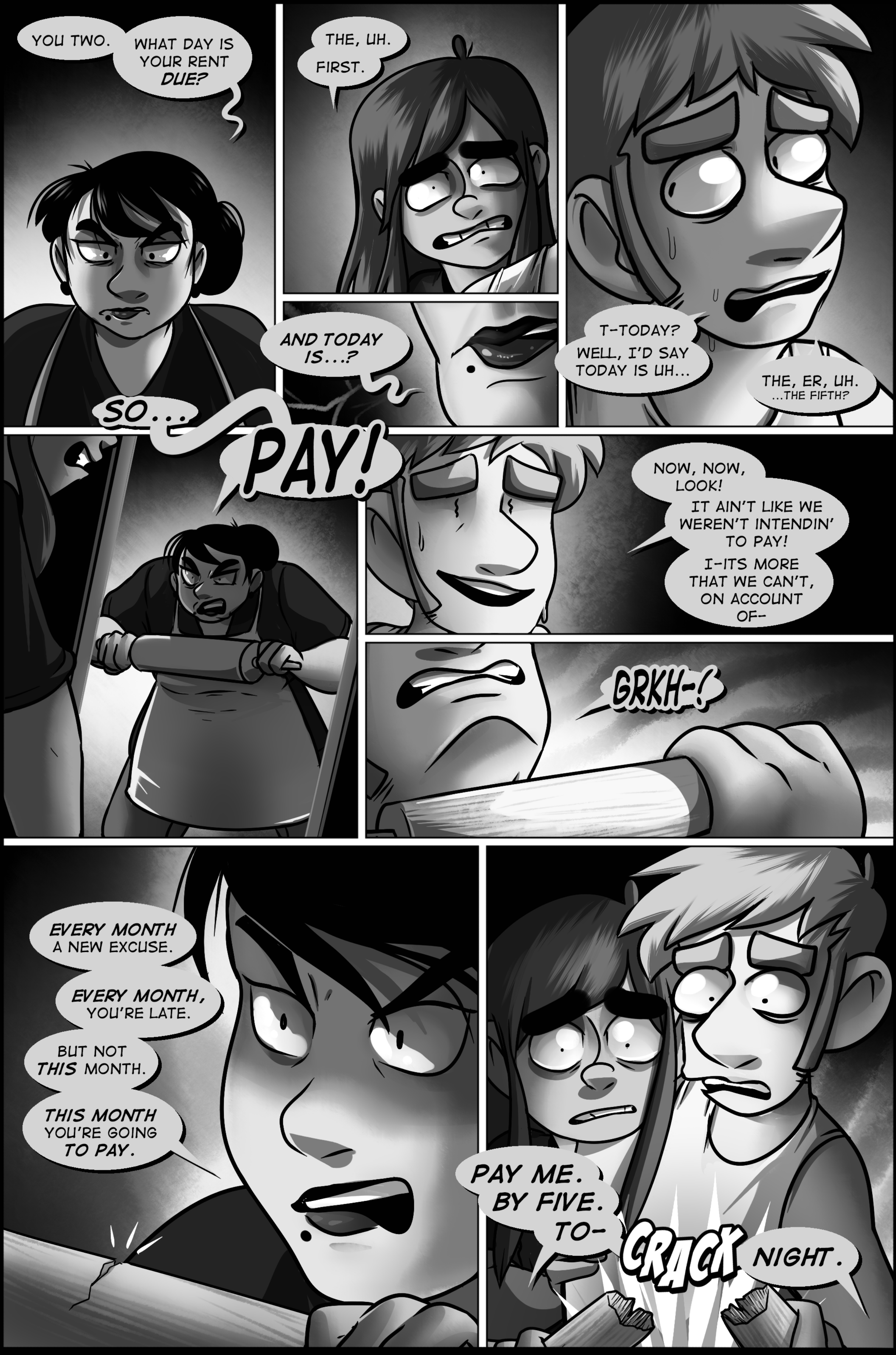

PEAS
WHAT?
AREN'T YOU LISTENING?!
THIS IS THE CASE THAT FINALLY PUTS GOTTWIN AND CO. ON THE MAP!
OH, I'M THE "CO." NOW?
THIS IS OUR BIG BREAK!
THIS COULD CHANGE OUR LIVES!
OUR.
ENTIRE.
CAREERS.
YOUR CAREER.
MY CAREER'S BEEN OVER FOR YEARS.

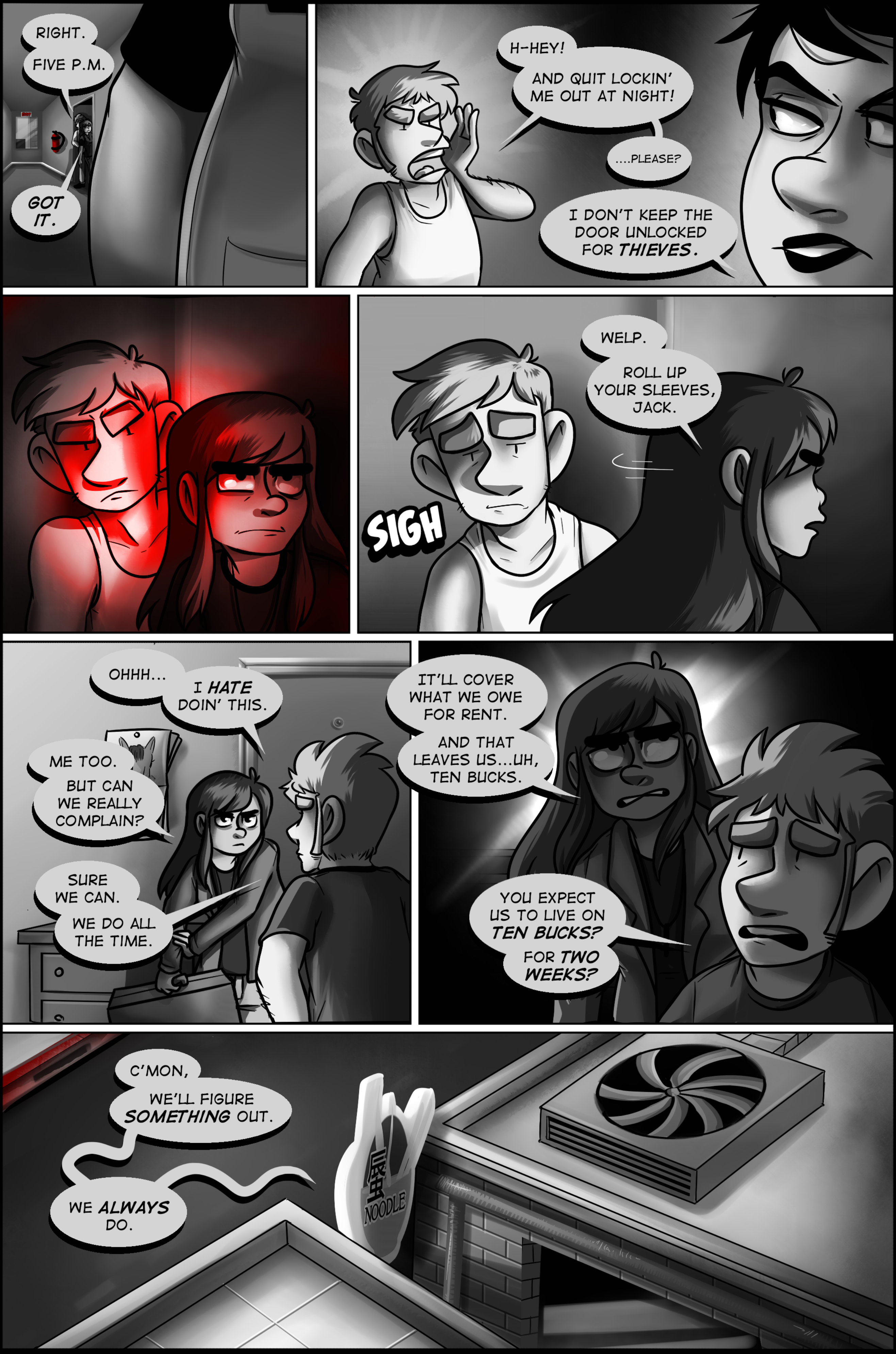

SO, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
OH, UH-!
OKAY, I WAS THINKING- EVERY GHOST EXTERMINATOR IN TOWN IS GONNA BE CLAMORING FOR THIS COMMISSION.
WE GOTTA ACT FAST AND GET THIS KID FIRST AND GET SOME GOOD P.R. FOR A CHANGE.
BUT BAITING IT IS GONNA BE KINDA TRICKY, SINCE WE GOTTA LURE IT IN THE APARTMENT-
WHOA!
MAXINE!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND!?
YOU ARE *NOT* LETTIN' THAT *THING* INTO OUR APARTMENT!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY JUST WALK DOWN THE STREET, JACK.
THEY MANIFEST AT-
AT DOORS AND WINDOWS,
I KNOW, I KNOW.
MORE WEIRD GHOST BEHAVIOR HORSESHIT.
ITS CALLED A "*RITUAL*".
I TRAINED YOU BETTER THAN THAT ROOKIE!
OOOH!
SORRY, "BOSS"!

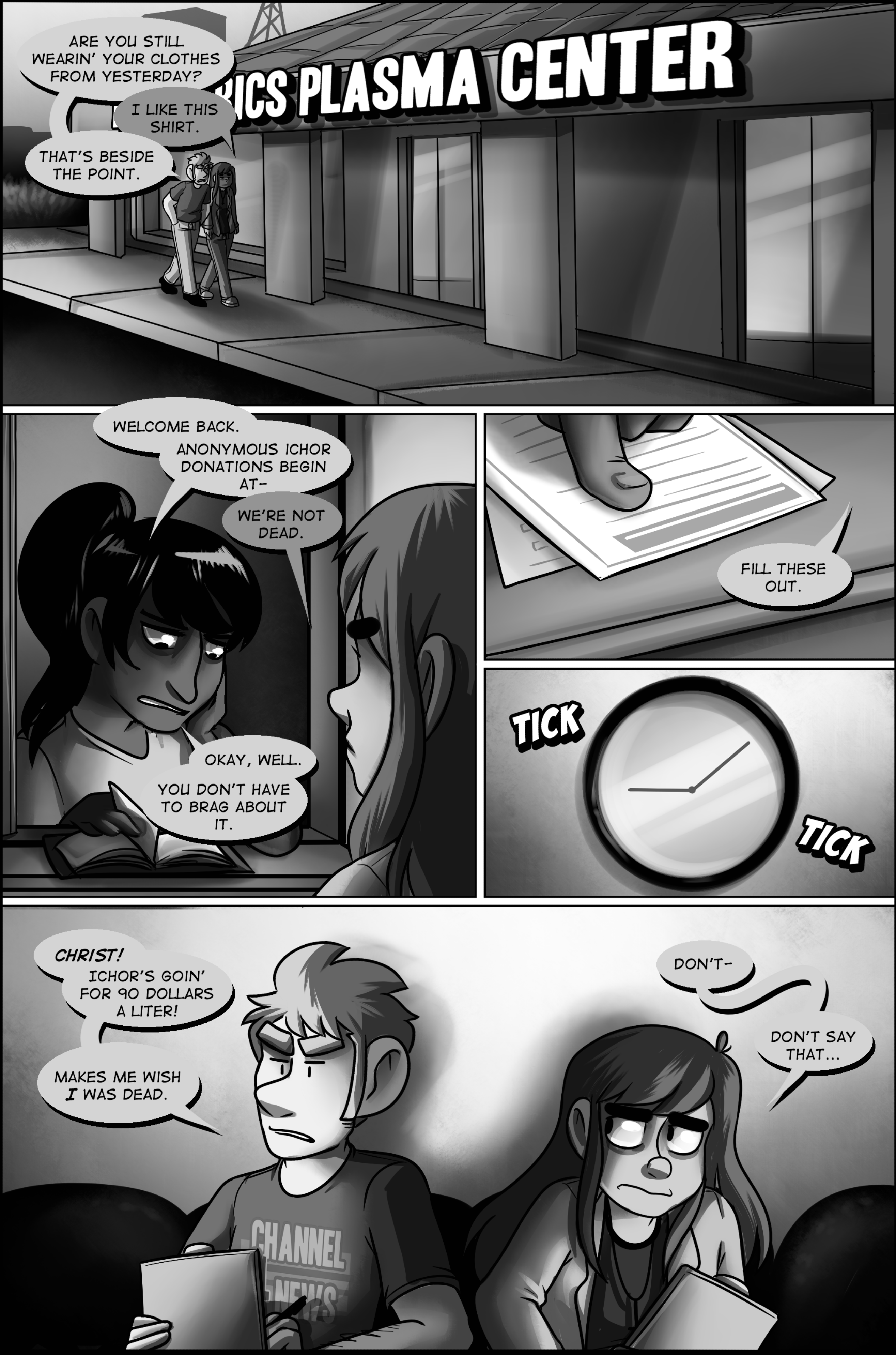

BUT, UH.
SERIOUSLY, MAX.
DON'T GO INVITIN' GHOSTS INTO OUR APARTMENT.
YOU'RE GOIN' TO GET US BOTH KILLED.
OH SURE.
NOW, YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE.
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU SLEPT?
HA.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTIN' "IDEAS" BY DAY THREE.
PFFT
NO!
NO, I-
I DON'T...
MAX, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE NOTICED.
BUT WE AIN'T EXACTLY PREPARED TO TAKE ON MOST GHOSTS.
LET ALONE GHOSTS THAT UH, KILL PEOPLE.
...I GUESS "KILL" IS UNDERSELLING IT.
YOU KNOW ALL THEY FOUND OF THAT FAMILY IN '87 WAS A COUPLE OF MOLARS?
ECHHH.

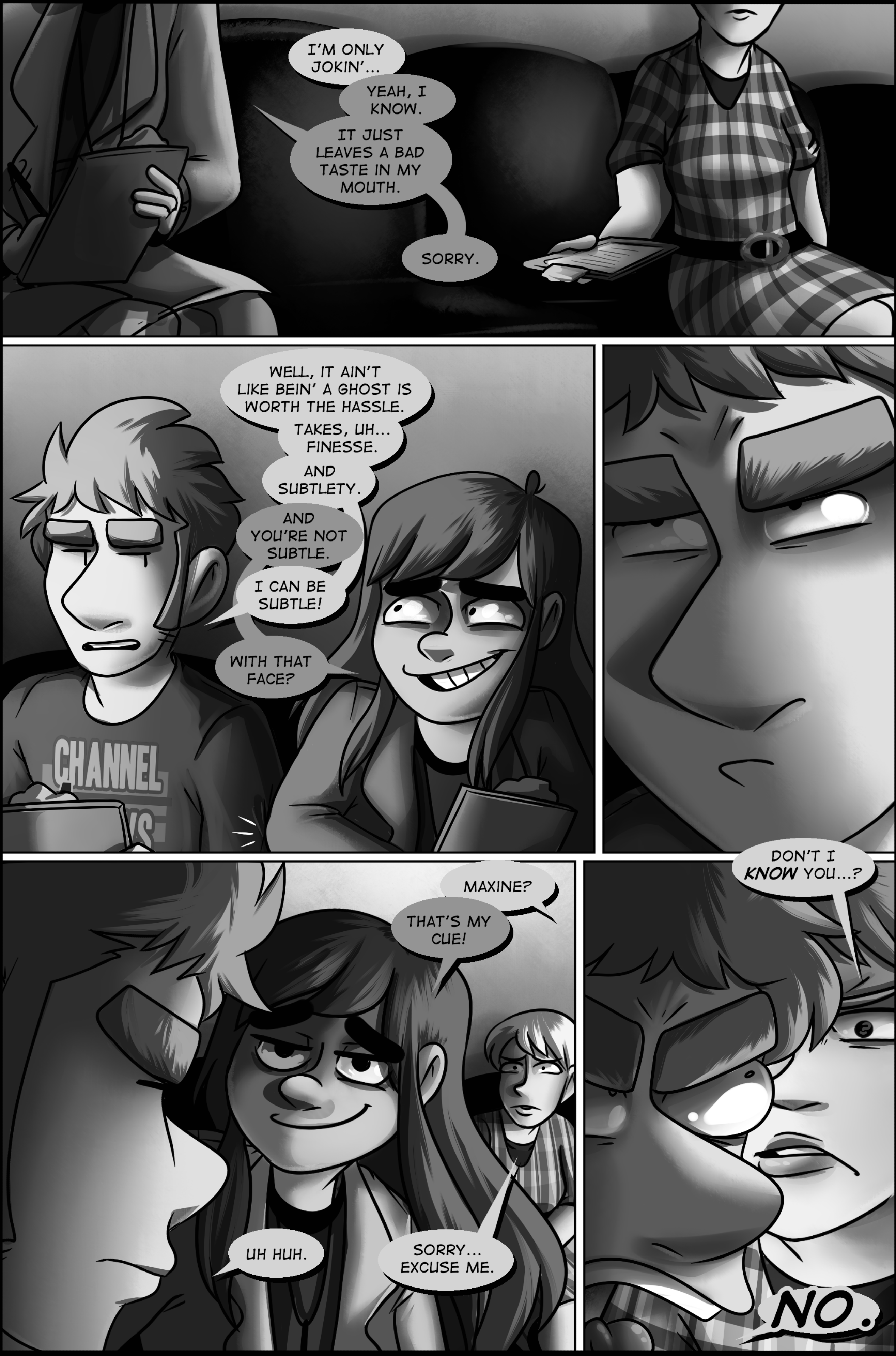

HEY, UH.
...JACK?
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU... Y'KNOW.
WATCH THE NEWS.
AW, MAX. S'ALRIGHT.
YOU DON'T MEAN ANY HARM BY IT.
SMEK
SO, UH. WERE WE GOIN' TO EAT THAT TONIGHT?
THE BRUISE STEAK?
I WOULDN'T.
I THINK IT'S BEEN THERE SINCE I MOVED IN.
...WELL THEN.
IN THAT CASE, I THINK I'LL JUST HIT THE HAY.
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTIN' SOME REAL SLEEP TOO, YOU KNOW.
YEAH. MAYBE.
BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHIN'
RECKLESS.

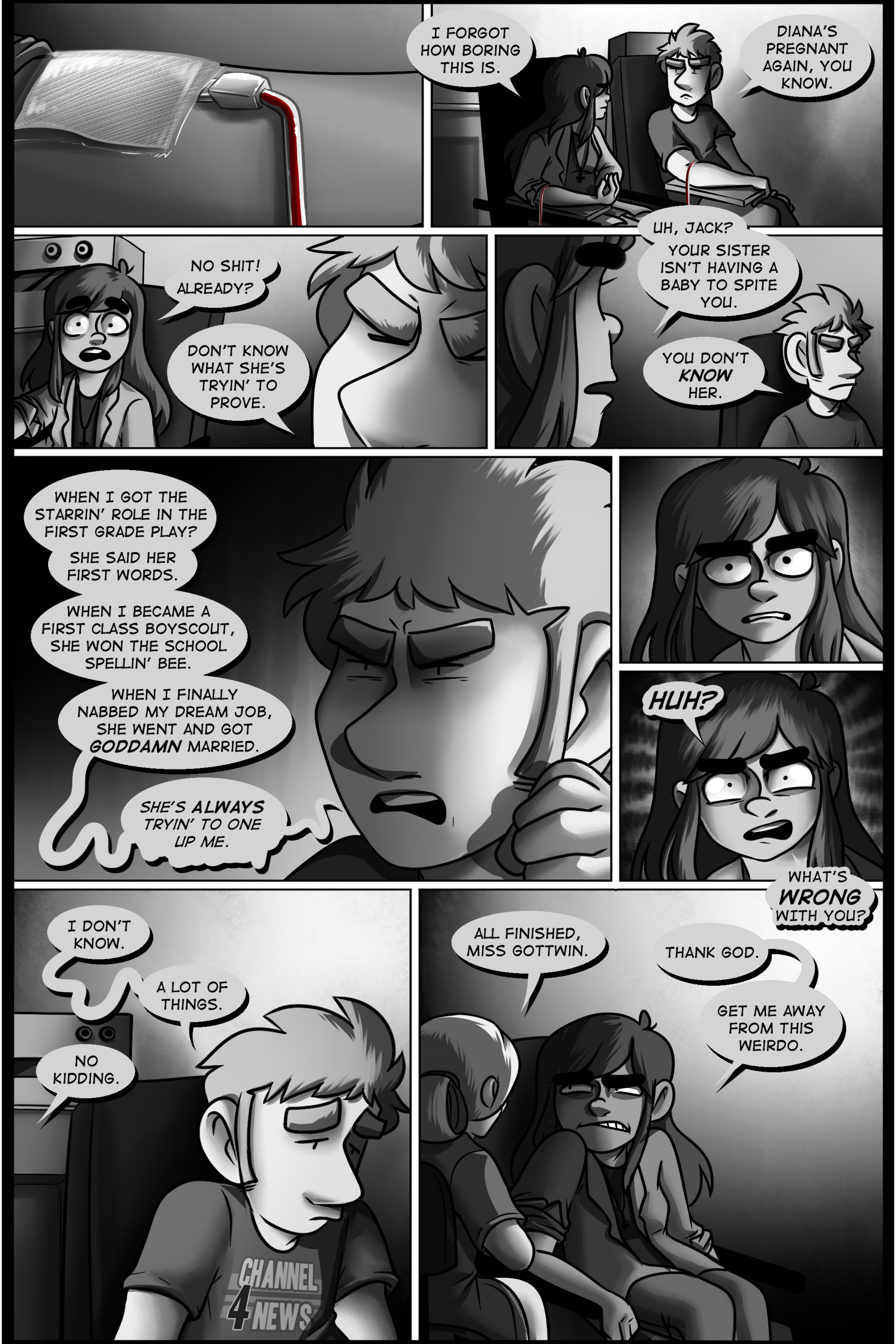

THE NEXT MORNING...
ZZZZZZ
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
GUH.
MAX...
BANG! BANG!
GET THE-
BANG! BANG!
DOOR.
BANG!
AW HELL,
I'M UP ANYWAY.
SHH!
WE GOTTA HIDE!
BANG! BANG! BANG!
NOW YOU WAIT JUST ONE GOD-DANGED MINUTE!
I'M NOT DEALIN' WITH THIS ALONE!
JUST DON'T PANIC.
I'M NOT.
BANG!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
LISTEN TO *THAT!*
WE STILL HAVE THE FIRE ESCAPE-
MAX...
BANG!
BUT SHE'S GONNA BE PISSED!
WE GOTTA FACE THE MUSIC.
BANG!
THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW WE'VE BEEN-
BANG!
BANG!
-LATE.
G'MORNIN' MA'AM.
I UH,
SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERIN' WHERE OUR RENT IS.

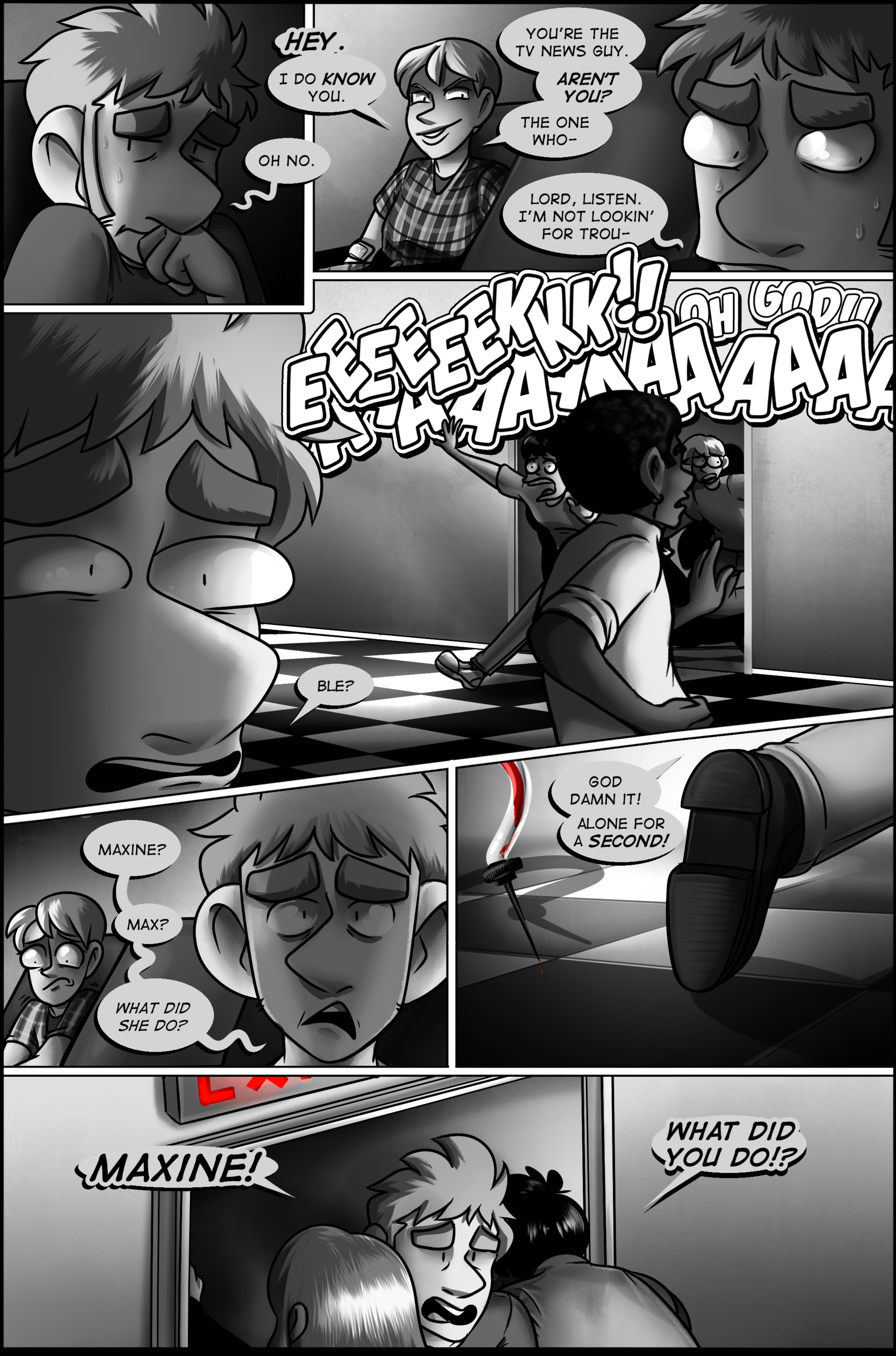

YOU TWO.
WHAT DAY IS YOUR RENT *DUE?*
THE, UH.
FIRST.
AND TODAY IS...?
T-TODAY? WELL, I'D SAY TODAY IS UH...
THE, ER, UH. ...THE FIFTH?
SO...
PAY!
NOW, NOW, LOOK!
IT AIN'T LIKE WE WEREN'T INTENDIN' TO PAY!
I-ITS MORE THAT WE CAN'T, ON ACCOUNT OF-
GRKH-!
EVERY MONTH A NEW EXCUSE.
EVERY MONTH, YOU'RE LATE.
BUT NOT *THIS* MONTH.
THIS MONTH YOU'RE GOING *TO PAY.*
PAY ME. BY FIVE. TO-
CRACK
NIGHT.

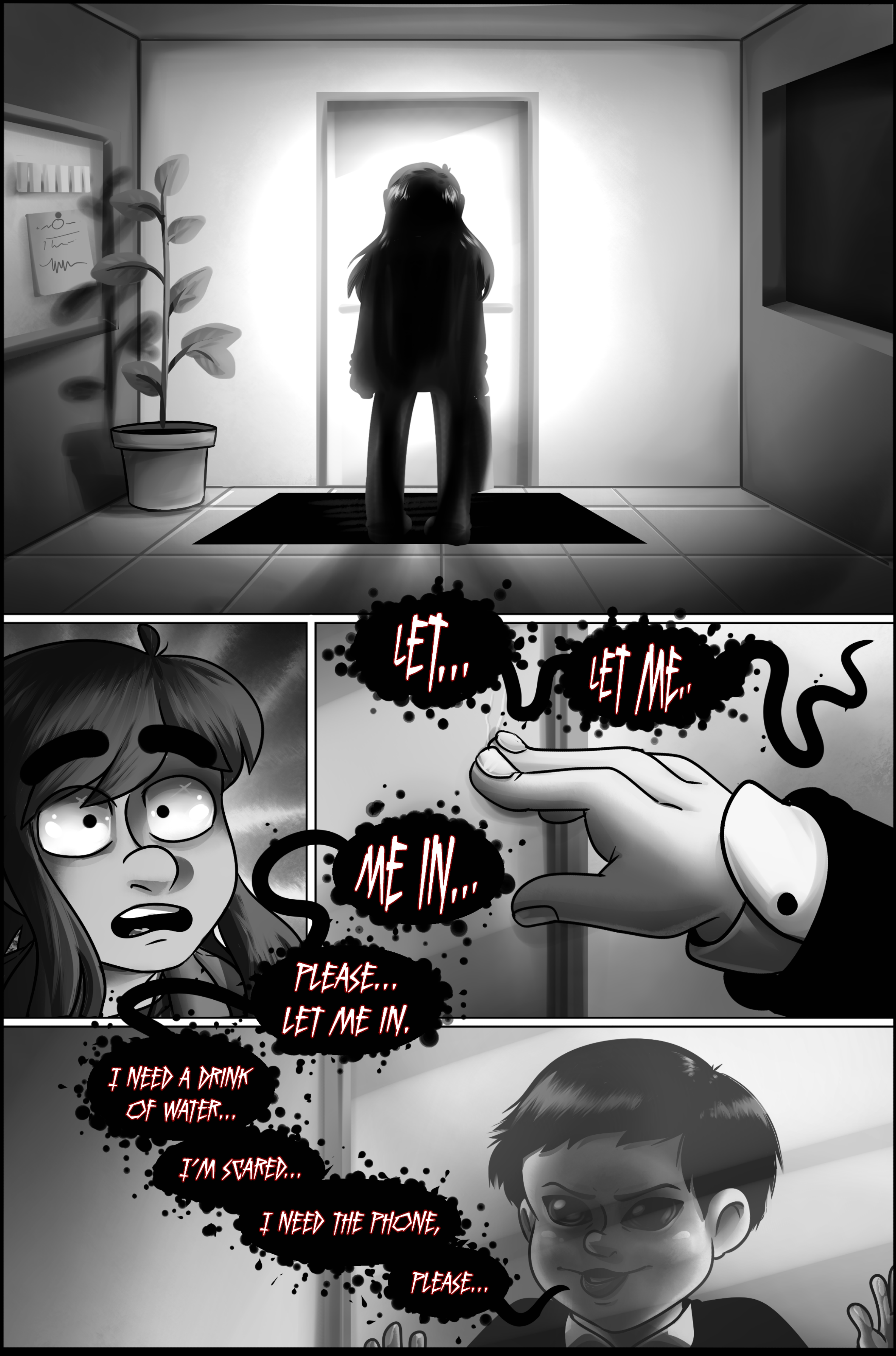

RIGHT.
FIVE P.M.
GOT IT.
H-HEY!
AND QUIT LOCKIN' ME OUT AT NIGHT!
....PLEASE?
I DON'T KEEP THE DOOR UNLOCKED FOR *THIEVES*.
WELP.
ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES, JACK.
SIGH
OHHH...
I *HATE* DOIN' THIS.
ME TOO.
BUT CAN WE REALLY COMPLAIN?
SURE WE CAN.
WE DO ALL THE TIME.
IT'LL COVER WHAT WE OWE FOR RENT.
AND THAT LEAVES US...UH, TEN BUCKS.
YOU EXPECT US TO LIVE ON *TEN BUCKS?*
FOR *TWO WEEKS?*
C'MON,
WE'LL FIGURE *SOMETHING* OUT.
WE *ALWAYS* DO.
NOODLE

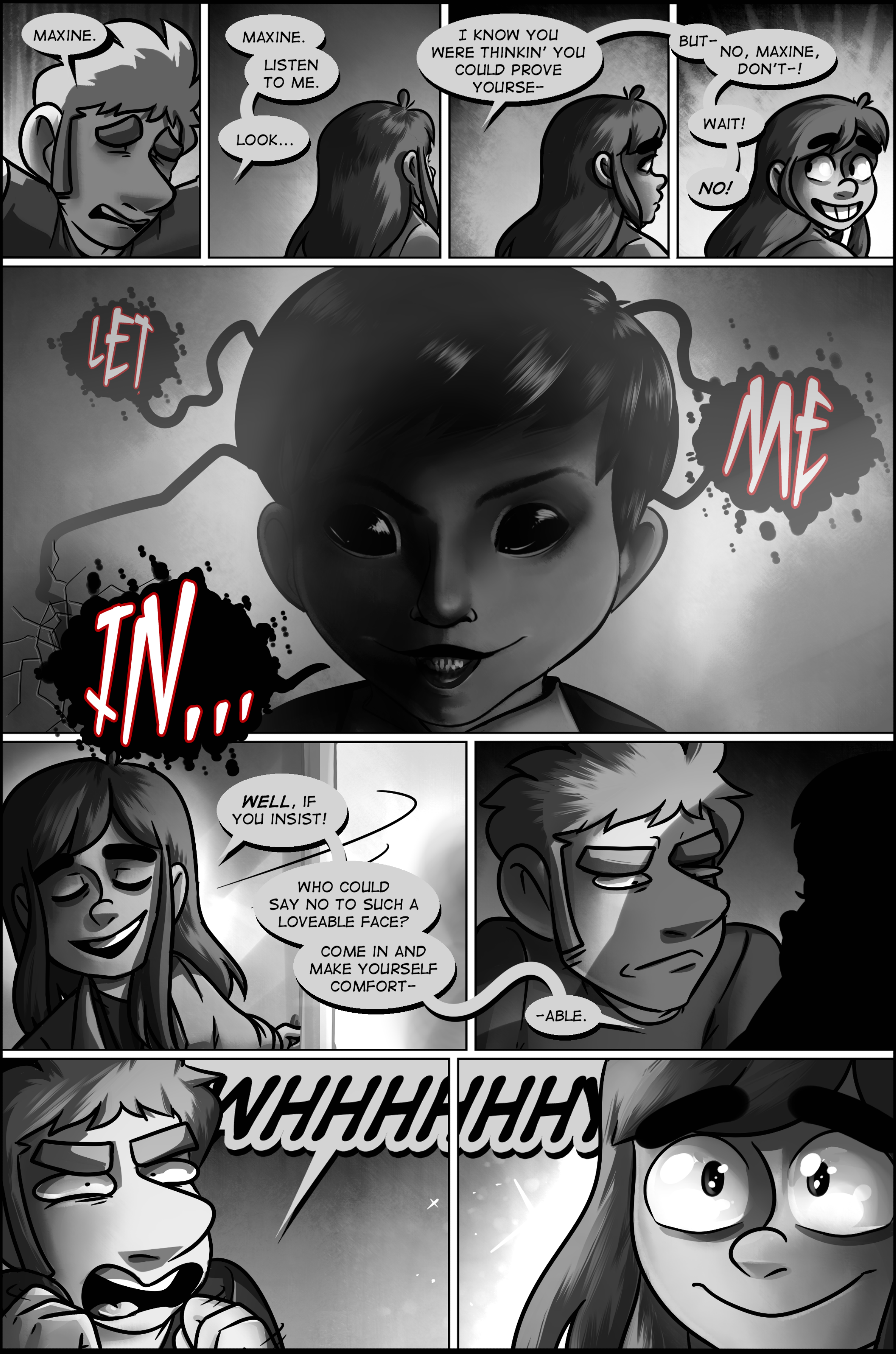

ARE YOU STILL WEARIN' YOUR CLOTHES FROM YESTERDAY?
I LIKE THIS SHIRT.
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.
RICS PLASMA CENTER
WELCOME BACK.
ANONYMOUS ICHOR DONATIONS BEGIN AT-
WE'RE NOT DEAD.
OKAY, WELL.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRAG ABOUT IT.
FILL THESE OUT.
TICK
TICK
CHRIST!
ICHOR'S GOIN' FOR 90 DOLLARS A LITER!
MAKES ME WISH I WAS DEAD.
DON'T-
DON'T SAY THAT...
CHANNEL NEWS

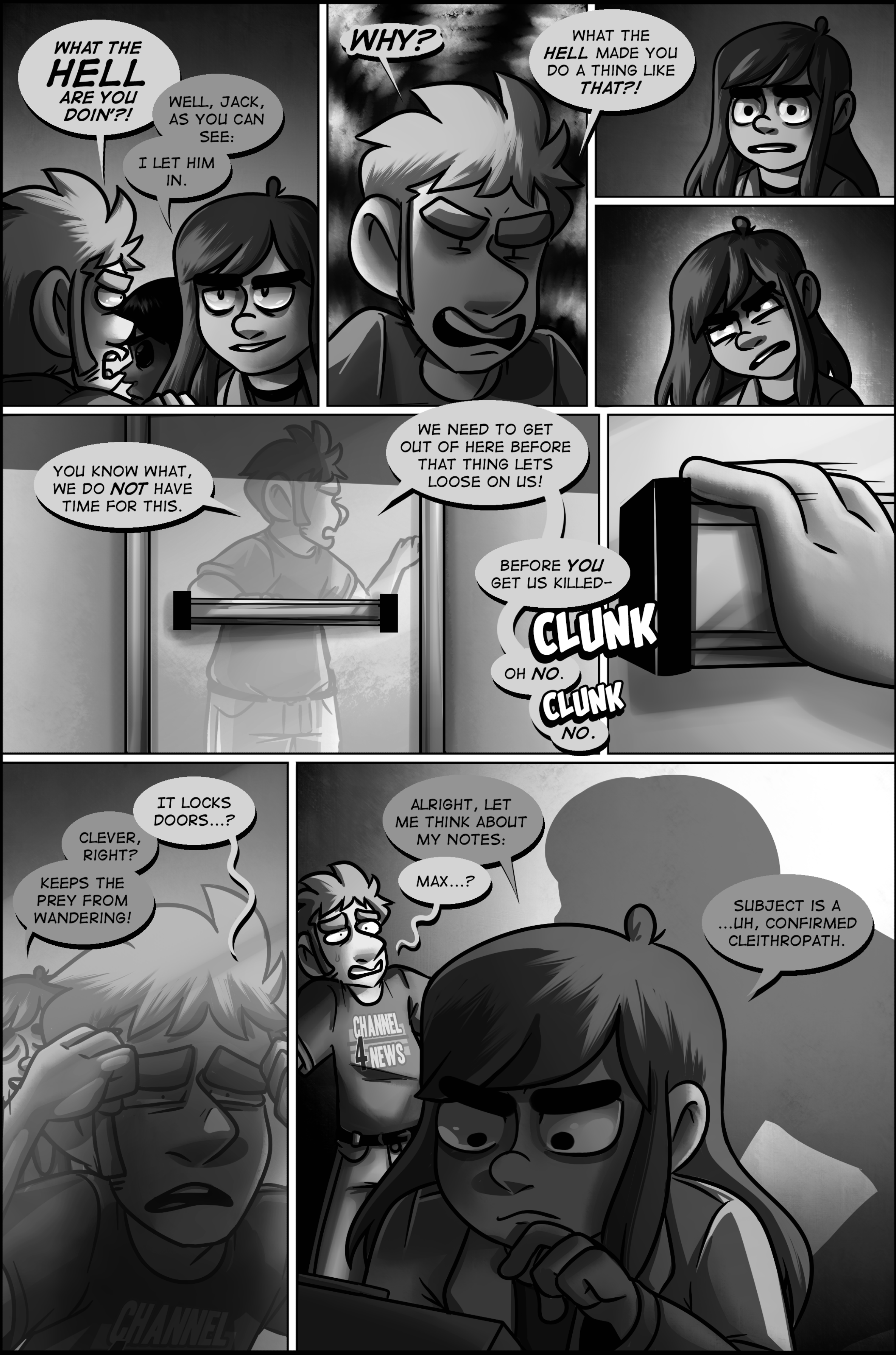

I'M ONLY JOKIN'...
YEAH, I KNOW.
IT JUST LEAVES A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH.
SORRY.
WELL, IT AIN'T LIKE BEIN' A GHOST IS WORTH THE HASSLE.
TAKES, UH... FINESSE.
AND SUBTLETY.
AND YOU'RE NOT SUBTLE.
I CAN BE SUBTLE!
WITH THAT FACE?
CHANNEL
MAXINE?
THAT'S MY CUE!
UH HUH.
SORRY... EXCUSE ME.
DON'T I *KNOW* YOU...?
NO.

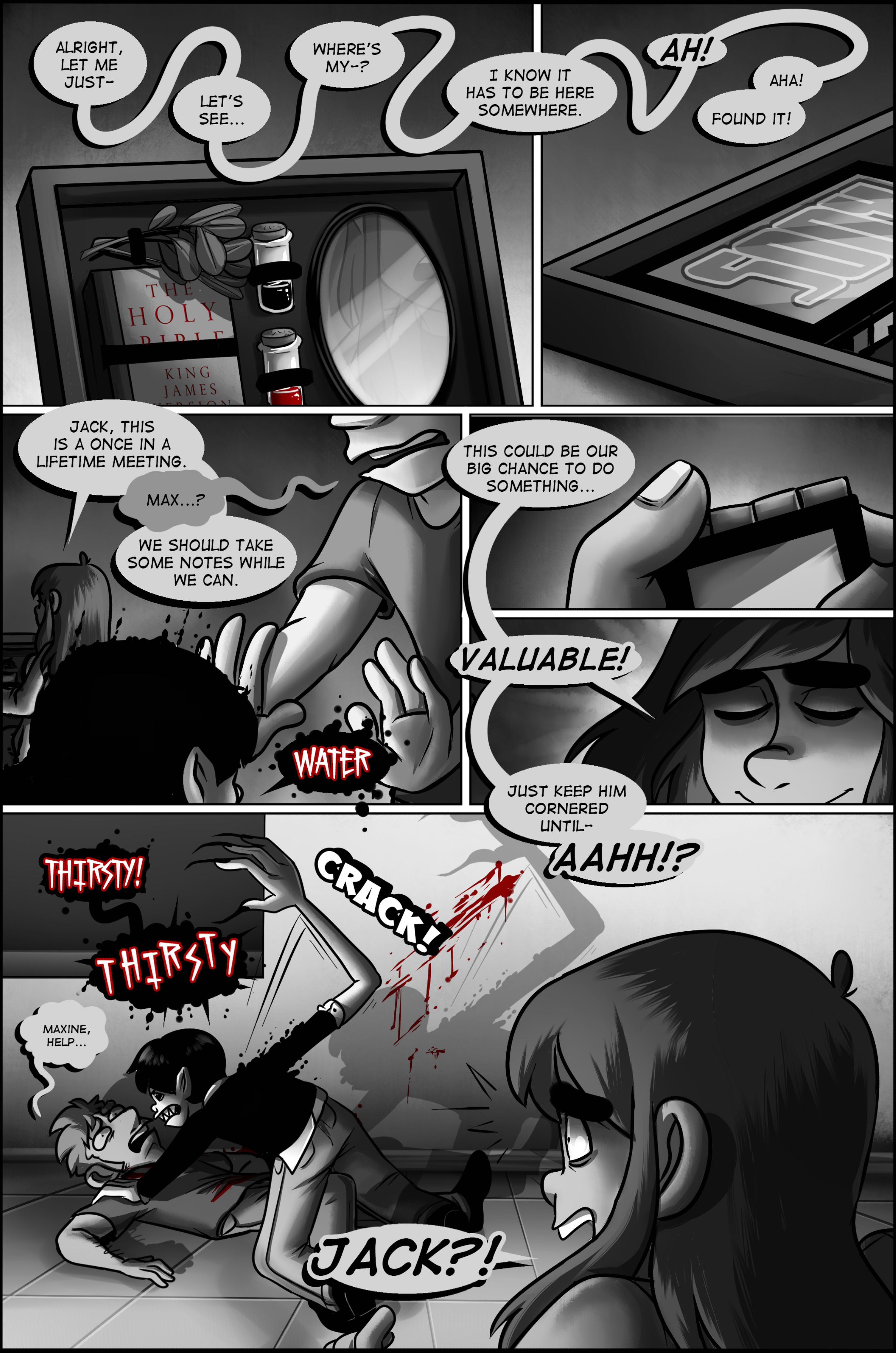

I FORGOT HOW BORING THIS IS.
DIANA'S PREGNANT AGAIN, YOU KNOW.
NO SHIT! ALREADY?
DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S TRYIN' TO PROVE.
UH, JACK?
YOUR SISTER ISN'T HAVING A BABY TO SPITE YOU.
YOU DON'T ***KNOW*** HER.
WHEN I GOT THE STARRIN' ROLE IN THE FIRST GRADE PLAY?
SHE SAID HER FIRST WORDS.
WHEN I BECAME A FIRST CLASS BOYSCOUT, SHE WON THE SCHOOL SPELLIN' BEE.
WHEN I FINALLY NABBED MY DREAM JOB, SHE WENT AND GOT ***GODDAMN*** MARRIED.
*SHE'S **ALWAYS** TRYIN' TO ONE UP ME.*
HUH?
WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH YOU?
I DON'T KNOW.
A LOT OF THINGS.
NO KIDDING.
CHANNEL 4 NEWS
ALL FINISHED, MISS GOTTWIN.
THANK GOD.
GET ME AWAY FROM THIS WEIRDO.

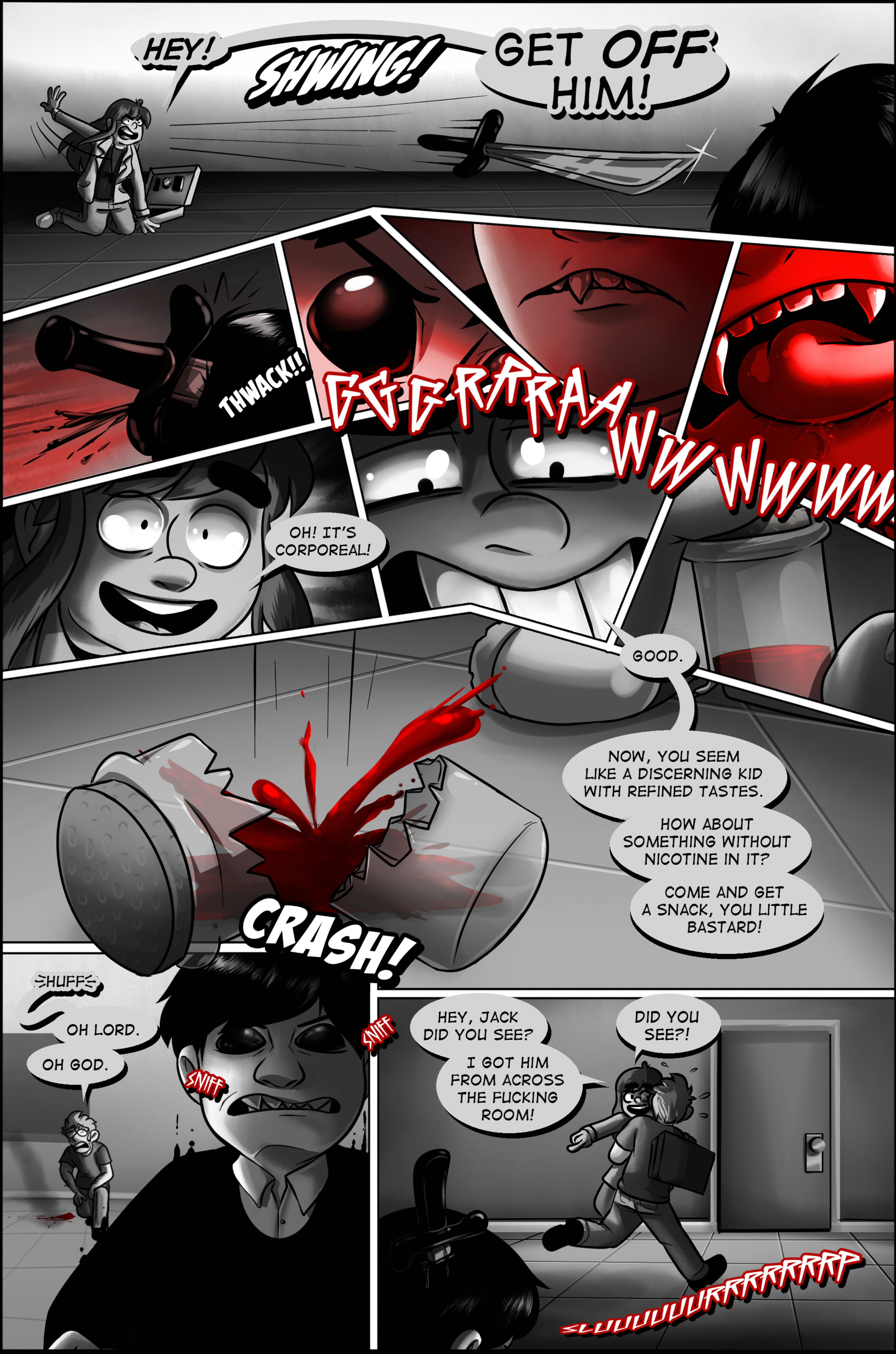

HEY.
I DO *KNOW* YOU.
OH NO.
YOU'RE THE TV NEWS GUY.
AREN'T YOU?
THE ONE WHO-
LORD, LISTEN. I'M NOT LOOKIN' FOR TROU-
EEEEEEKKK!!
OH GOD!!
AAAAAAAAAA
BLE?
MAXINE?
MAX?
WHAT DID SHE DO?
GOD DAMN IT!
ALONE FOR A *SECOND!*
MAXINE!
WHAT DID YOU DO!?

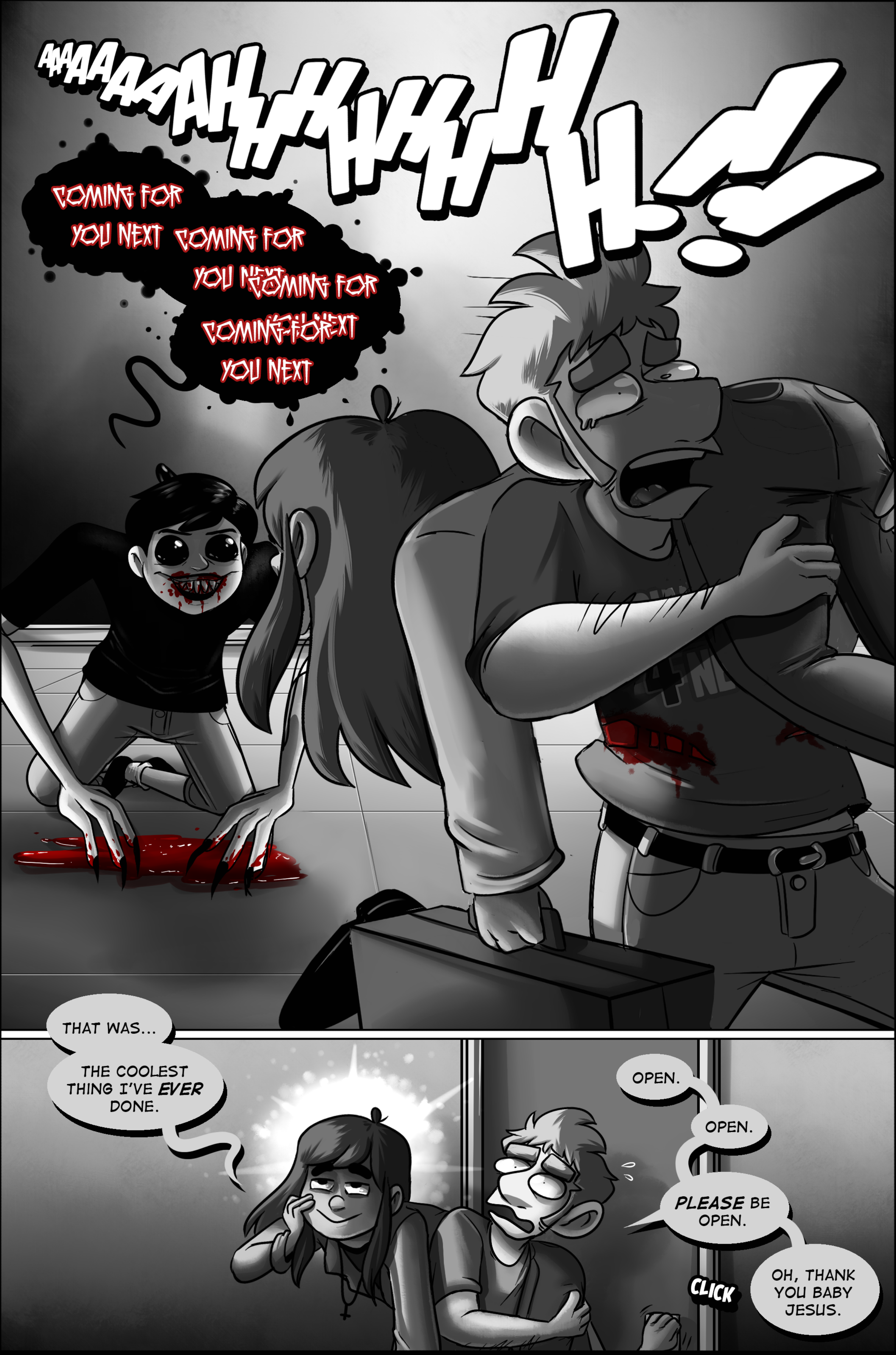

LET...
LET ME.
ME IN...
PLEASE... LET ME IN.
I NEED A DRINK OF WATER...
I'M SCARED...
I NEED THE PHONE,
PLEASE...

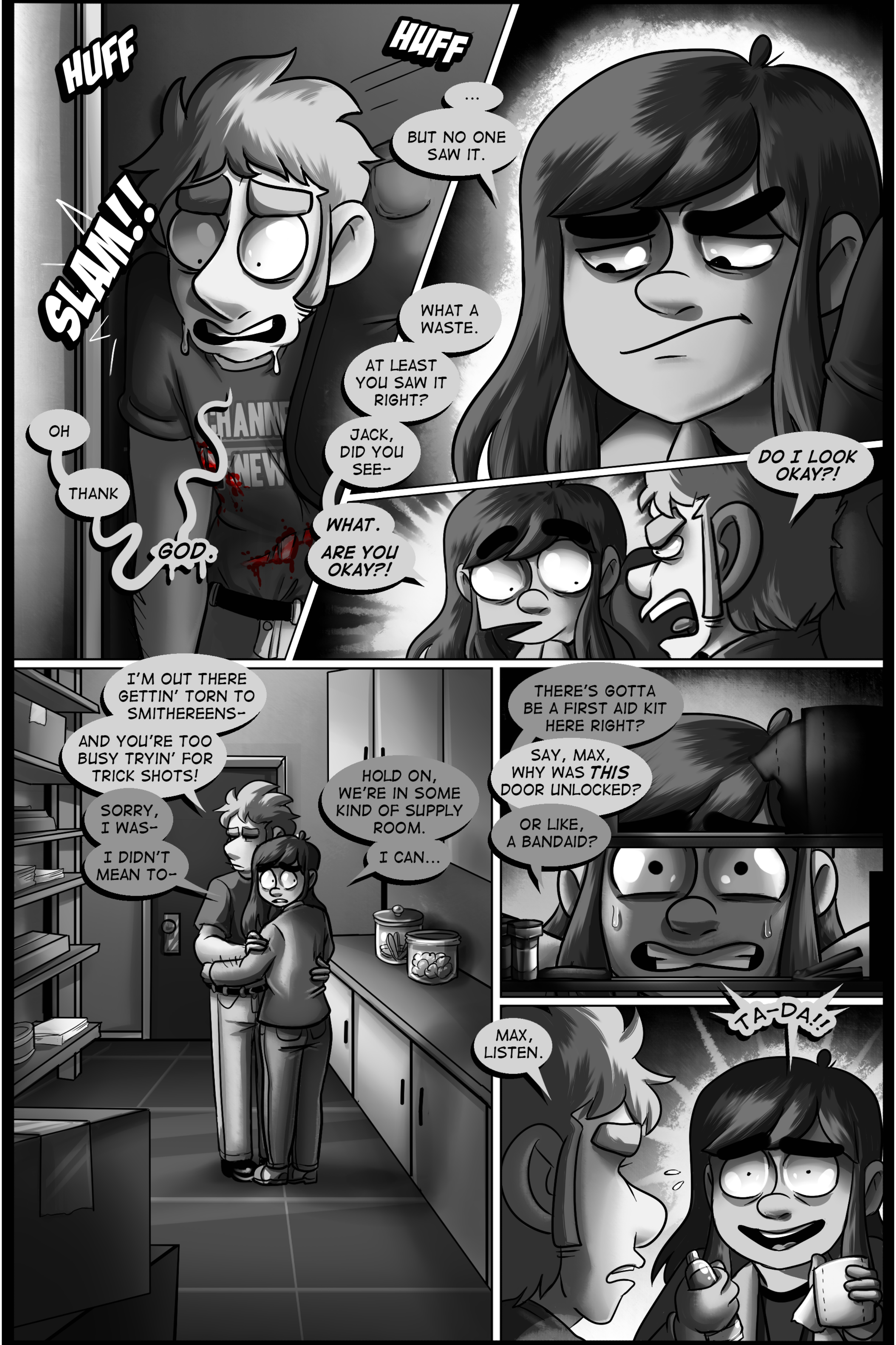

MAXINE.
MAXINE.
LISTEN TO ME.
LOOK...
I KNOW YOU WERE THINKIN' YOU COULD PROVE YOURSE-
BUT-
NO, MAXINE, DON'T-!
WAIT!
NO!
LET
ME
IN...
WELL, IF YOU INSIST!
WHO COULD SAY NO TO SUCH A LOVEABLE FACE?
COME IN AND MAKE YOURSELF COMFORT-
-ABLE.
WHHHHHHH

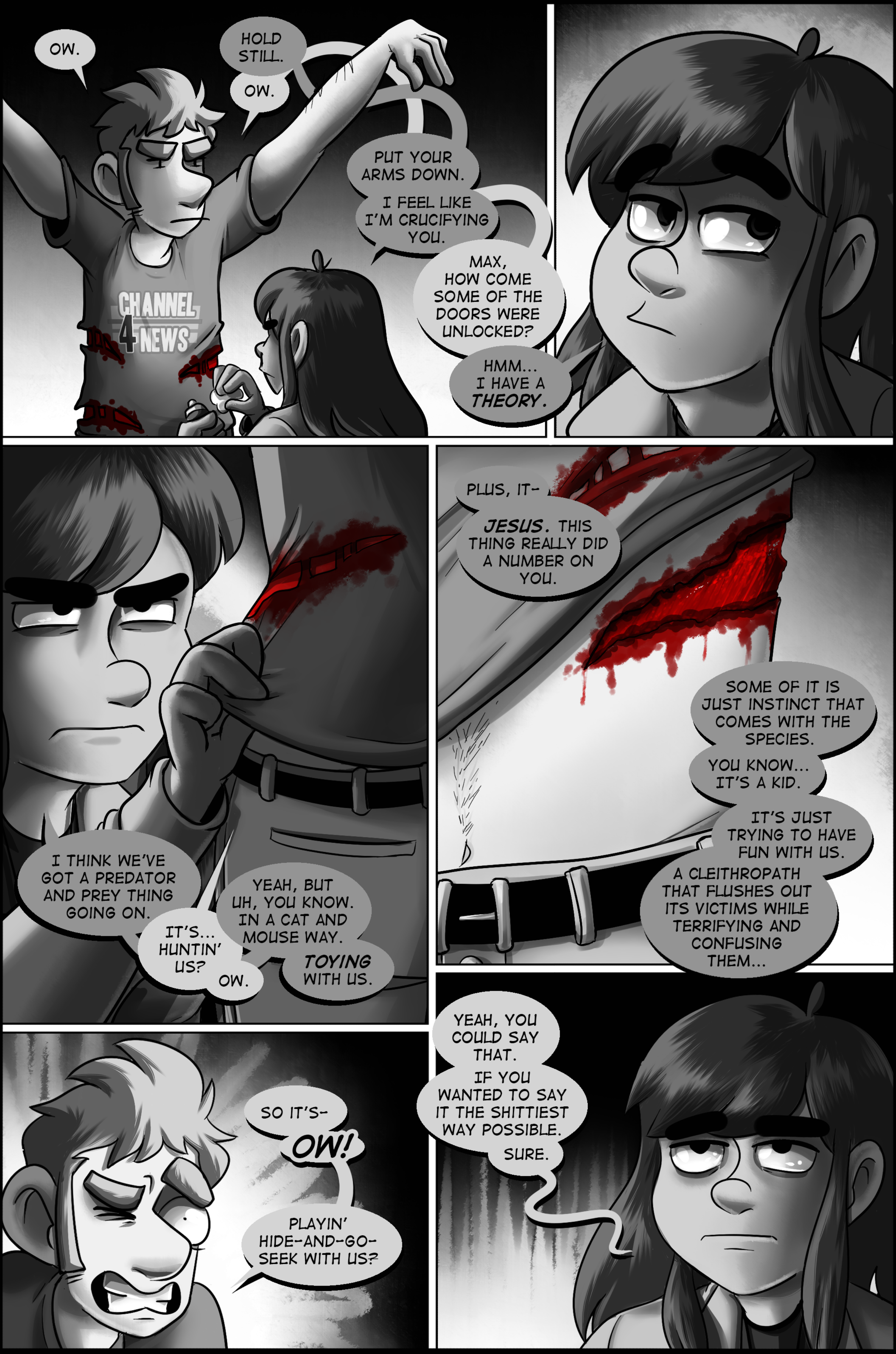

WHAT THE **HELL** ARE YOU DOIN'?!
WELL, JACK, AS YOU CAN SEE:
I LET HIM IN.
WHY?
WHAT THE ***HELL*** MADE YOU DO A THING LIKE ***THAT?!***
YOU KNOW WHAT, WE DO ***NOT*** HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT THING LETS LOOSE ON US!
BEFORE ***YOU*** GET US KILLED-
CLUNK
OH ***NO.***
CLUNK
NO.
IT LOCKS DOORS...?
CLEVER, RIGHT?
KEEPS THE PREY FROM WANDERING!
ALRIGHT, LET ME THINK ABOUT MY NOTES:
MAX...?
SUBJECT IS A ...UH, CONFIRMED CLEITHROPATH.
CHANNEL 4 NEWS
CHANNEL

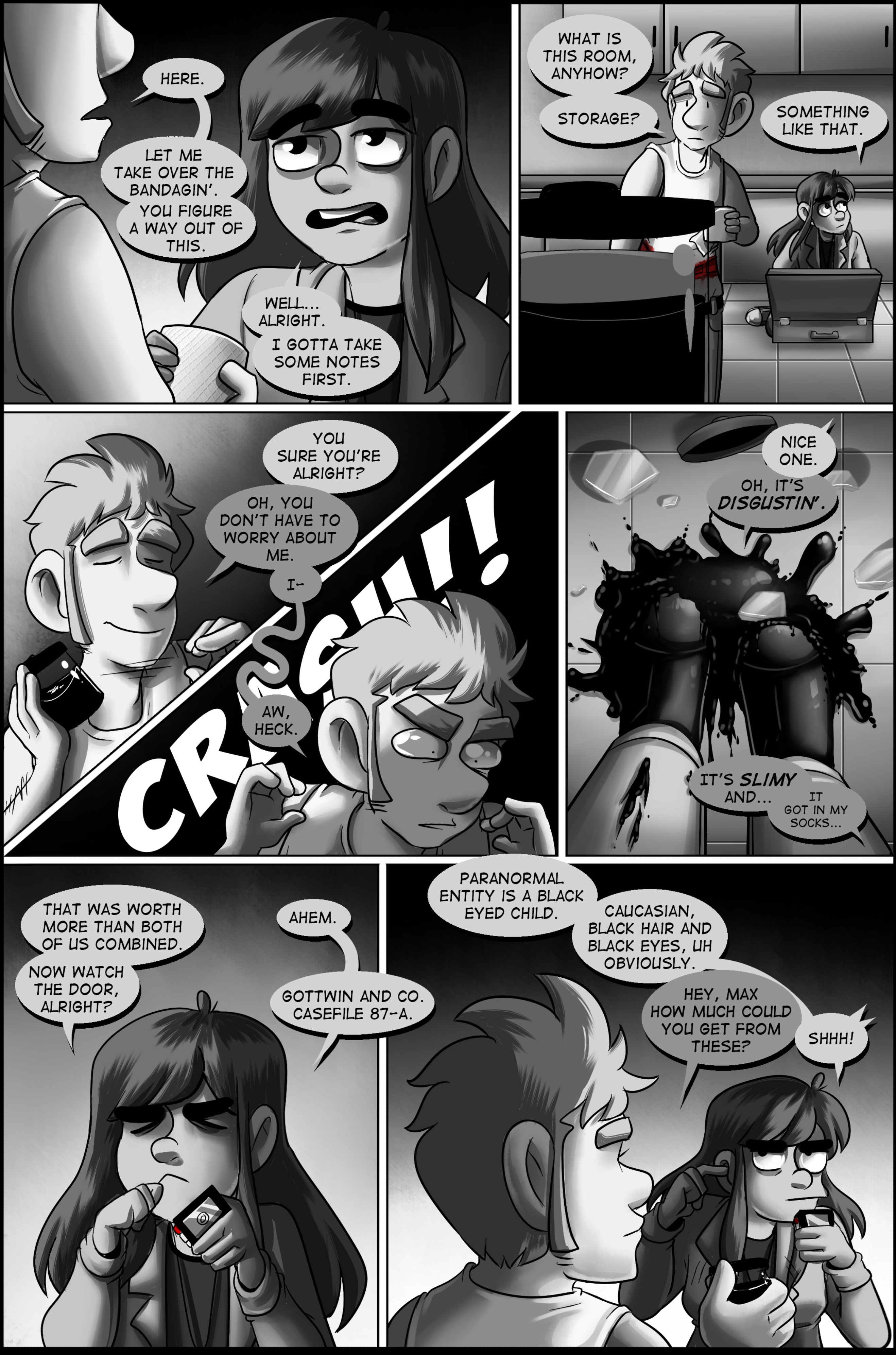

ALRIGHT, LET ME JUST-
LET'S SEE...
WHERE'S MY-?
I KNOW IT HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE.
AH!
AHA!
FOUND IT!
THE HOLY BIBLE
KING JAMES
JACK, THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME MEETING.
MAX...?
WE SHOULD TAKE SOME NOTES WHILE WE CAN.
WATER
THIS COULD BE OUR BIG CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING...
VALUABLE!
JUST KEEP HIM CORNERED UNTIL-
AAHH!?
THIRSTY!
THIRSTY
CRACK!
MAXINE, HELP...
JACK?!

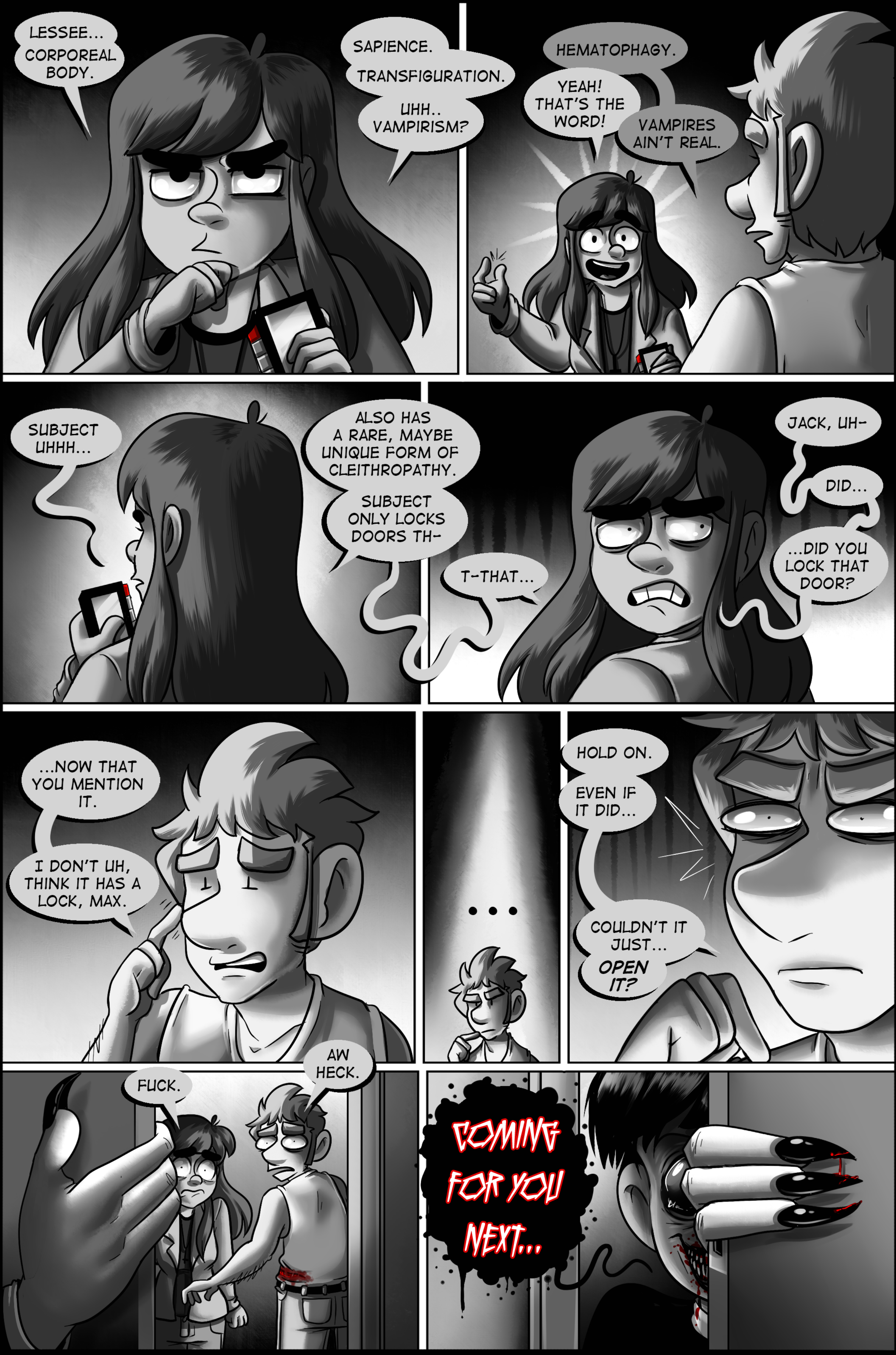

HEY!
SHWING!
GET OFF HIM!
THWACK!!
GGGRRRRAAWWWWWW
OH! IT'S CORPOREAL!
GOOD.
NOW, YOU SEEM LIKE A DISCERNING KID WITH REFINED TASTES.
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING WITHOUT NICOTINE IN IT?
COME AND GET A SNACK, YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
CRASH!
SHUFF
OH LORD.
OH GOD.
SNIFF
SNIFF
HEY, JACK DID YOU SEE?
I GOT HIM FROM ACROSS THE FUCKING ROOM!
DID YOU SEE?!
SLUUUUUURRRRRRRP

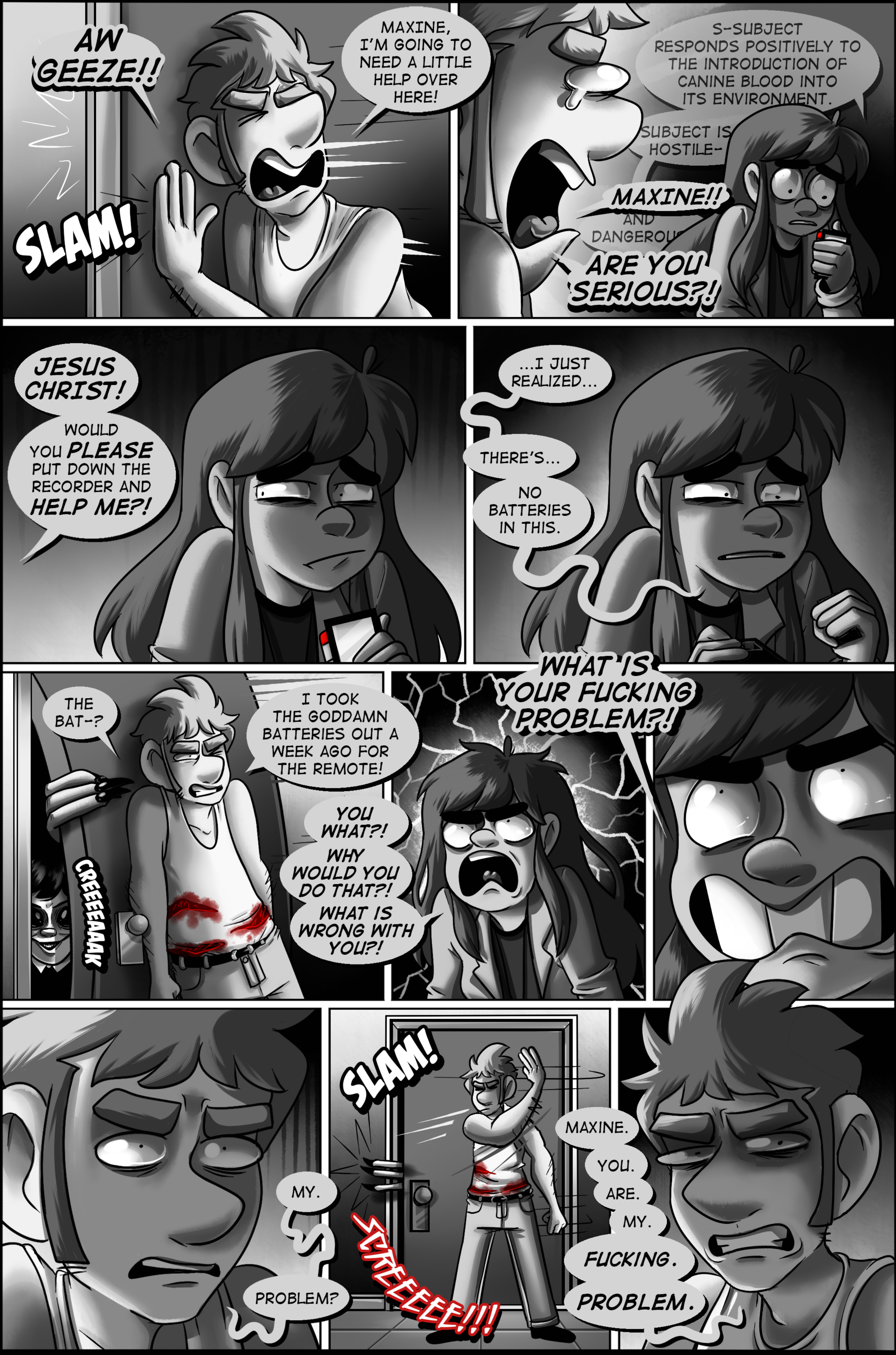

AAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH!!
COMING FOR YOU NEXT COMING FOR YOU NEXT COMING FOR COMING FOR YOU NEXT YOU NEXT
THAT WAS...
THE COOLEST THING I'VE *EVER* DONE.
OPEN.
OPEN.
PLEASE BE OPEN.
CLICK
OH, THANK YOU BABY JESUS.

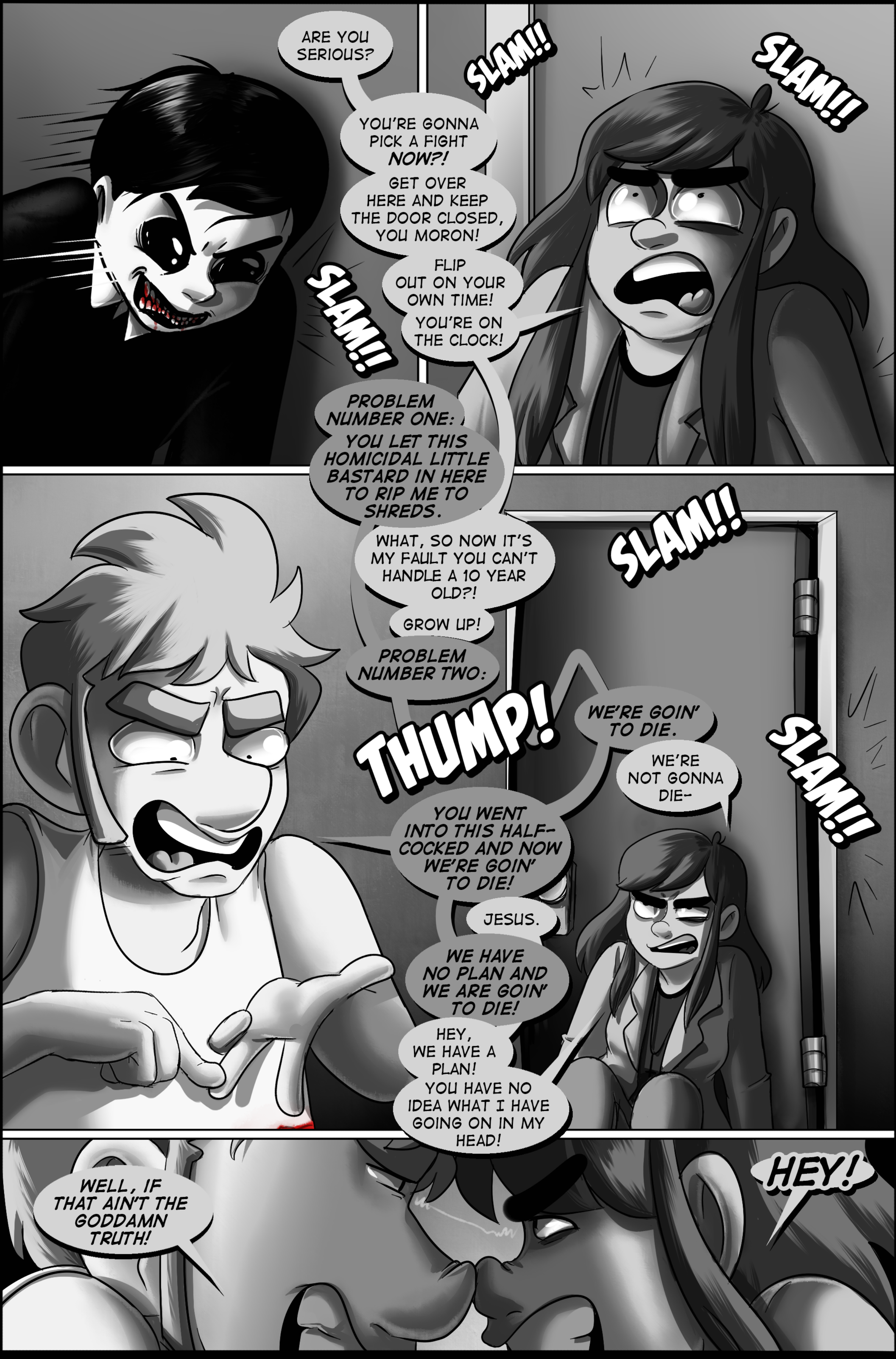

HUFF
HUFF
SLAM!!
OH
THANK
GOD.
...
BUT NO ONE SAW IT.
WHAT A WASTE.
AT LEAST YOU SAW IT RIGHT?
JACK, DID YOU SEE-
WHAT. ARE YOU OKAY?!
DO I LOOK OKAY?!
CHANNEL NEWS
I'M OUT THERE GETTIN' TORN TO SMITHEREENS-
AND YOU'RE TOO BUSY TRYIN' FOR TRICK SHOTS!
SORRY, I WAS-
I DIDN'T MEAN TO-
HOLD ON, WE'RE IN SOME KIND OF SUPPLY ROOM.
I CAN...
THERE'S GOTTA BE A FIRST AID KIT HERE RIGHT?
SAY, MAX, WHY WAS *THIS* DOOR UNLOCKED?
OR LIKE, A BANDAID?
MAX, LISTEN.
TA-DA!!

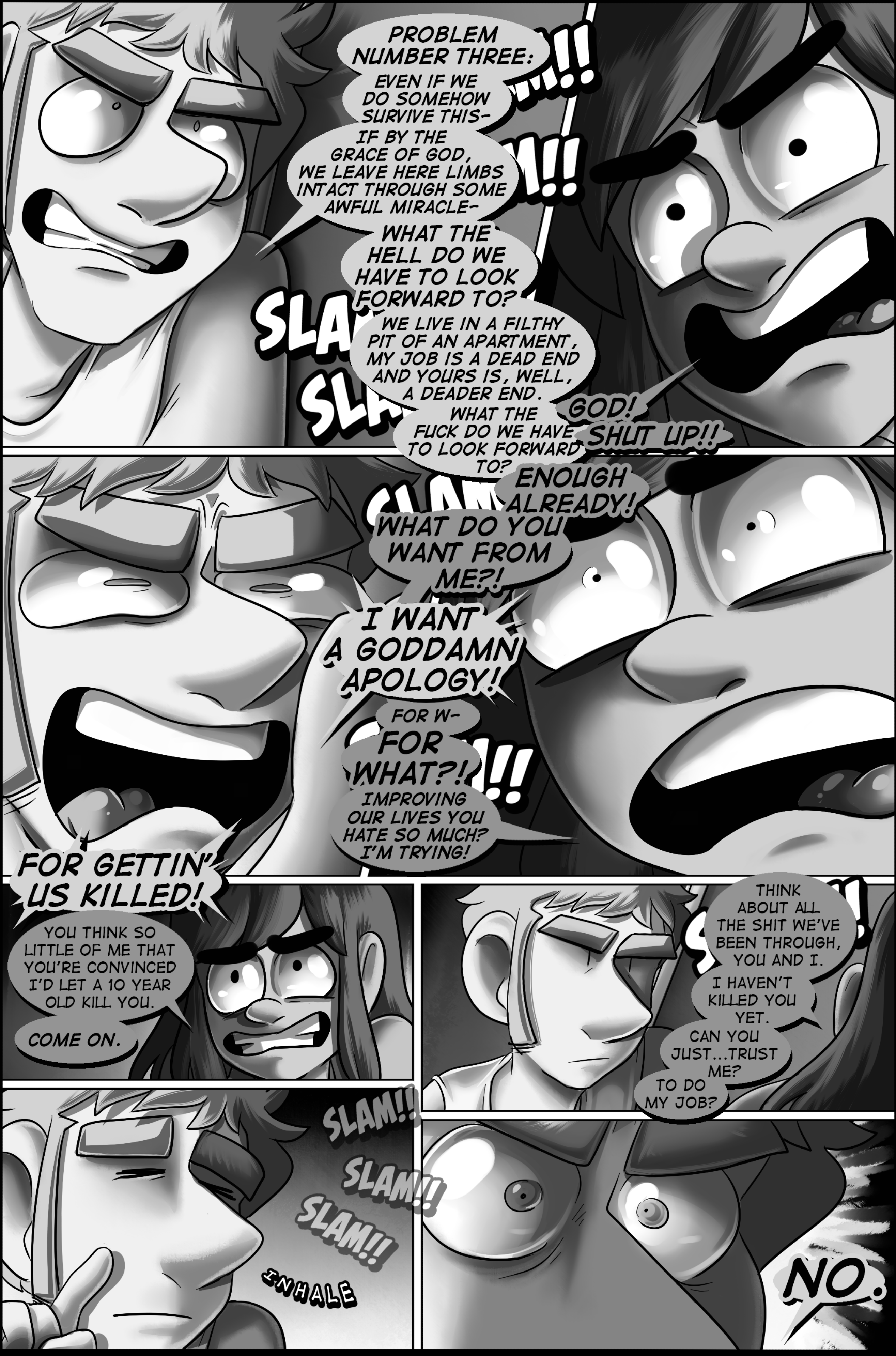

OW.
HOLD STILL.
OW.
CHANNEL 4 NEWS
PUT YOUR ARMS DOWN.
I FEEL LIKE I'M CRUCIFYING YOU.
MAX, HOW COME SOME OF THE DOORS WERE UNLOCKED?
HMM... I HAVE A *THEORY*.
I THINK WE'VE GOT A PREDATOR AND PREY THING GOING ON.
IT'S... HUNTIN' US?
OW.
YEAH, BUT UH, YOU KNOW. IN A CAT AND MOUSE WAY.
TOYING WITH US.
PLUS, IT-
JESUS. THIS THING REALLY DID A NUMBER ON YOU.
SOME OF IT IS JUST INSTINCT THAT COMES WITH THE SPECIES.
YOU KNOW... IT'S A KID.
IT'S JUST TRYING TO HAVE FUN WITH US.
A CLEITHROPATH THAT FLUSHES OUT ITS VICTIMS WHILE TERRIFYING AND CONFUSING THEM...
SO IT'S-
OW!
PLAYIN' HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK WITH US?
YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT.
IF YOU WANTED TO SAY IT THE SHITTIEST WAY POSSIBLE.
SURE.

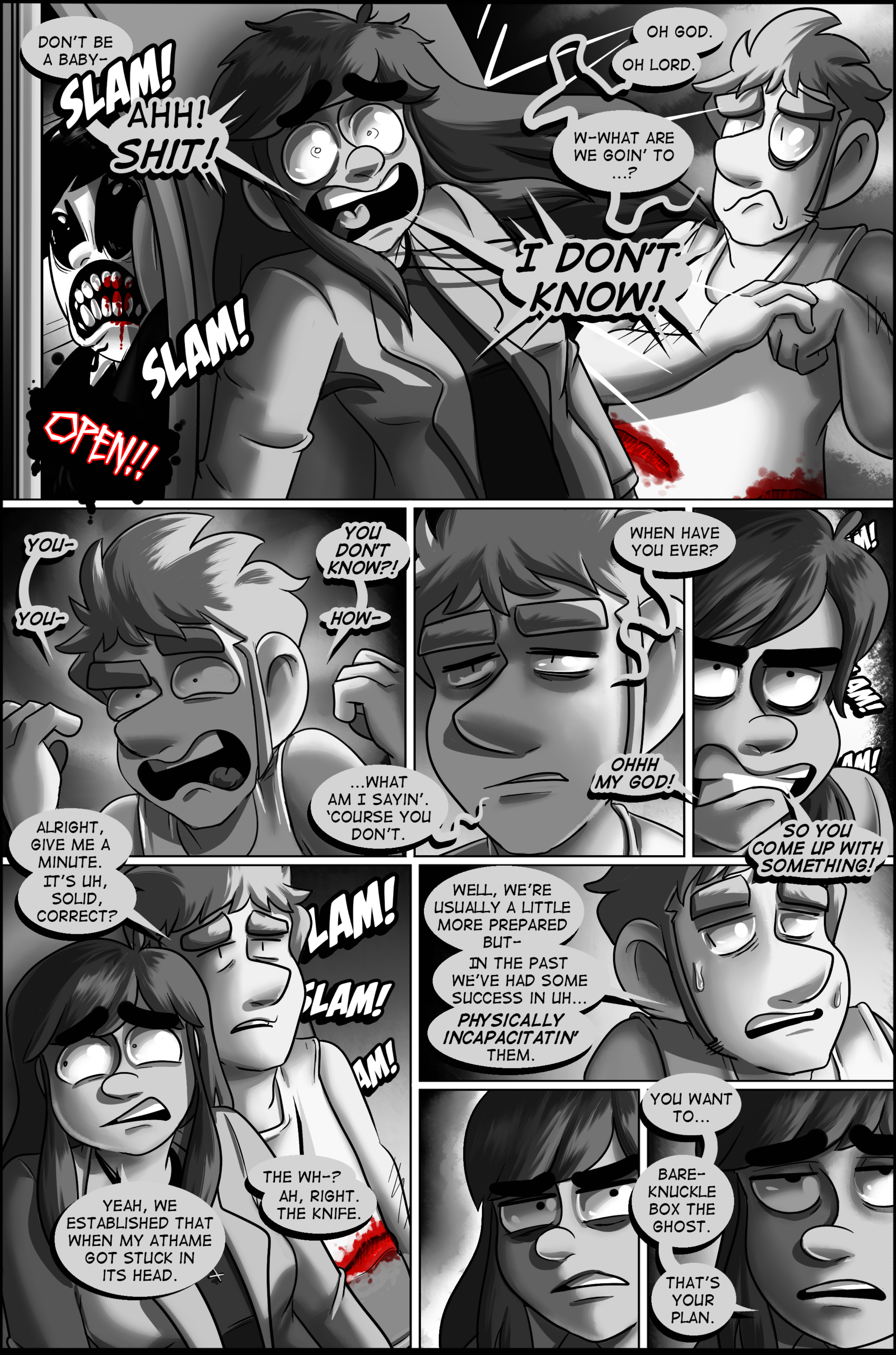

HERE.
LET ME TAKE OVER THE BANDAGIN'.
YOU FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS.
WELL... ALRIGHT.
I GOTTA TAKE SOME NOTES FIRST.
WHAT IS THIS ROOM, ANYHOW?
STORAGE?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT?
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
I-
CRASH!!
AW, HECK.
NICE ONE.
OH, IT'S *DISGUSTIN'*.
IT'S *SLIMY* AND...
IT GOT IN MY SOCKS...
THAT WAS WORTH MORE THAN BOTH OF US COMBINED.
NOW WATCH THE DOOR, ALRIGHT?
AHEM.
GOTTWIN AND CO. CASEFILE 87-A.
PARANORMAL ENTITY IS A BLACK EYED CHILD.
CAUCASIAN, BLACK HAIR AND BLACK EYES, UH OBVIOUSLY.
HEY, MAX HOW MUCH COULD YOU GET FROM THESE?
SHHH!

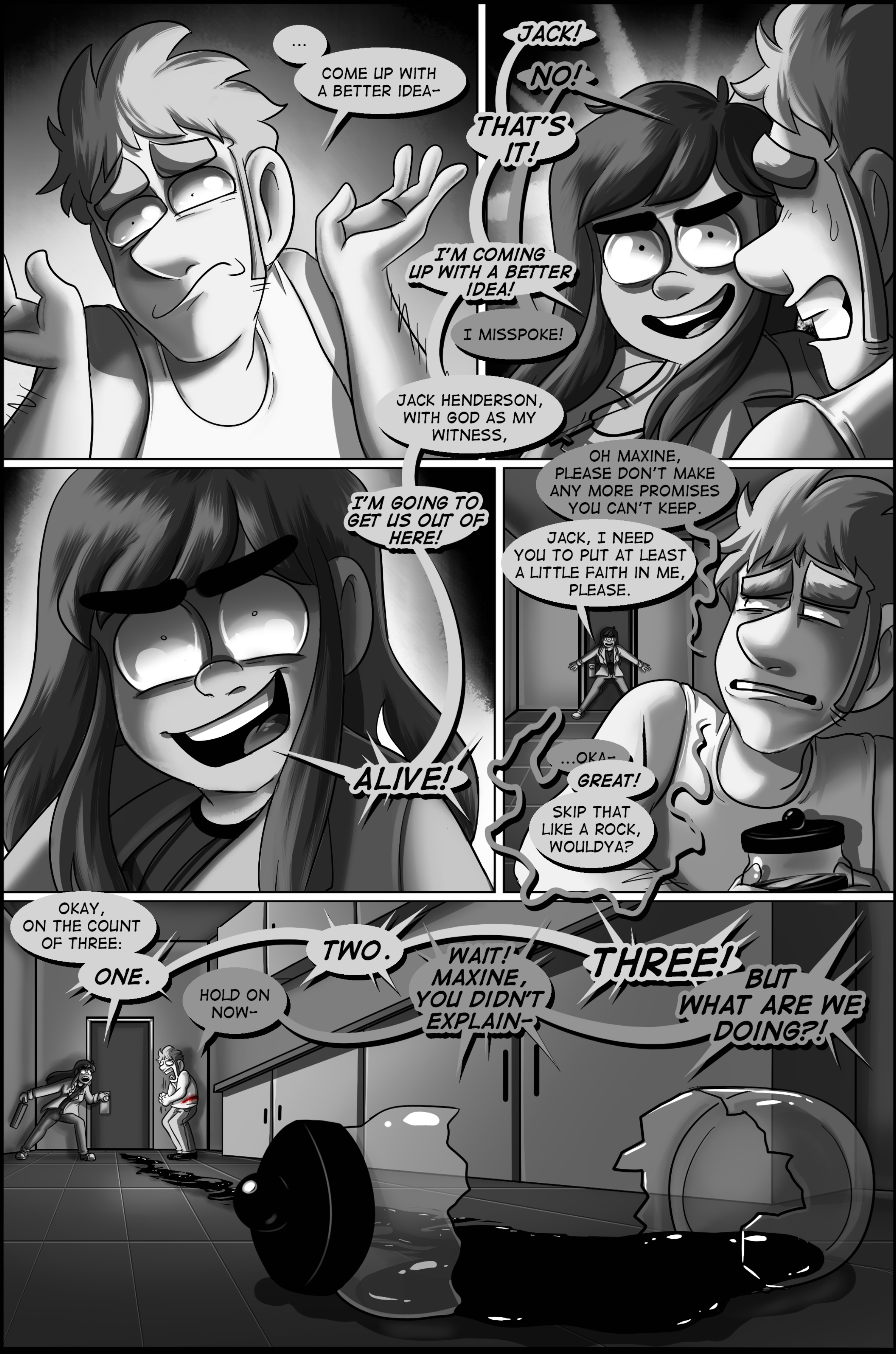

LESSEE... CORPOREAL BODY.
SAPIENCE.
TRANSFIGURATION.
UHH.. VAMPIRISM?
HEMATOPHAGY.
YEAH! THAT'S THE WORD!
VAMPIRES AIN'T REAL.
SUBJECT UHHH...
ALSO HAS A RARE, MAYBE UNIQUE FORM OF CLEITHROPATHY.
SUBJECT ONLY LOCKS DOORS TH-
T-THAT...
JACK, UH-
DID...
...DID YOU LOCK THAT DOOR?
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.
I DON'T UH, THINK IT HAS A LOCK, MAX.
...
HOLD ON.
EVEN IF IT DID...
COULDN'T IT JUST...
OPEN IT?
FUCK.
AW HECK.
COMING FOR YOU NEXT...

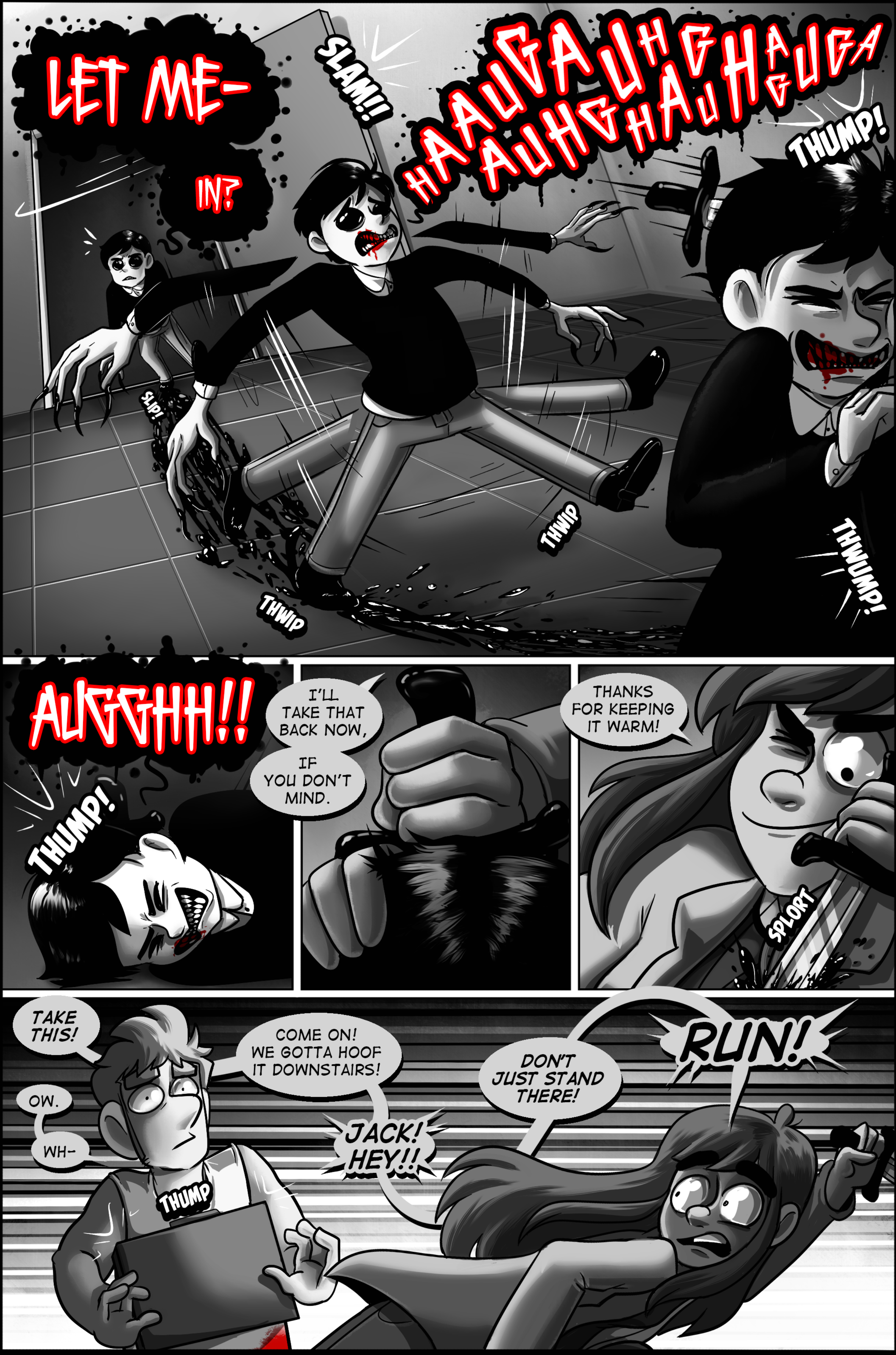

AW GEEZE!!
SLAM!
MAXINE, I'M GOING TO NEED A LITTLE HELP OVER HERE!
S-SUBJECT RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO THE INTRODUCTION OF CANINE BLOOD INTO ITS ENVIRONMENT.
SUBJECT IS HOSTILE-
MAXINE!!
AND DANGEROU
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
JESUS CHRIST!
WOULD YOU PLEASE PUT DOWN THE RECORDER AND HELP ME?!
...I JUST REALIZED...
THERE'S...
NO BATTERIES IN THIS.
THE BAT-?
I TOOK THE GODDAMN BATTERIES OUT A WEEK AGO FOR THE REMOTE!
CREEEEAAAK
YOU WHAT?!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
WHAT IS YOUR FUCKING PROBLEM?!
MY.
PROBLEM?
SLAM!
SCREEEEEE!!!
MAXINE.
YOU.
ARE.
MY.
FUCKING.
PROBLEM.

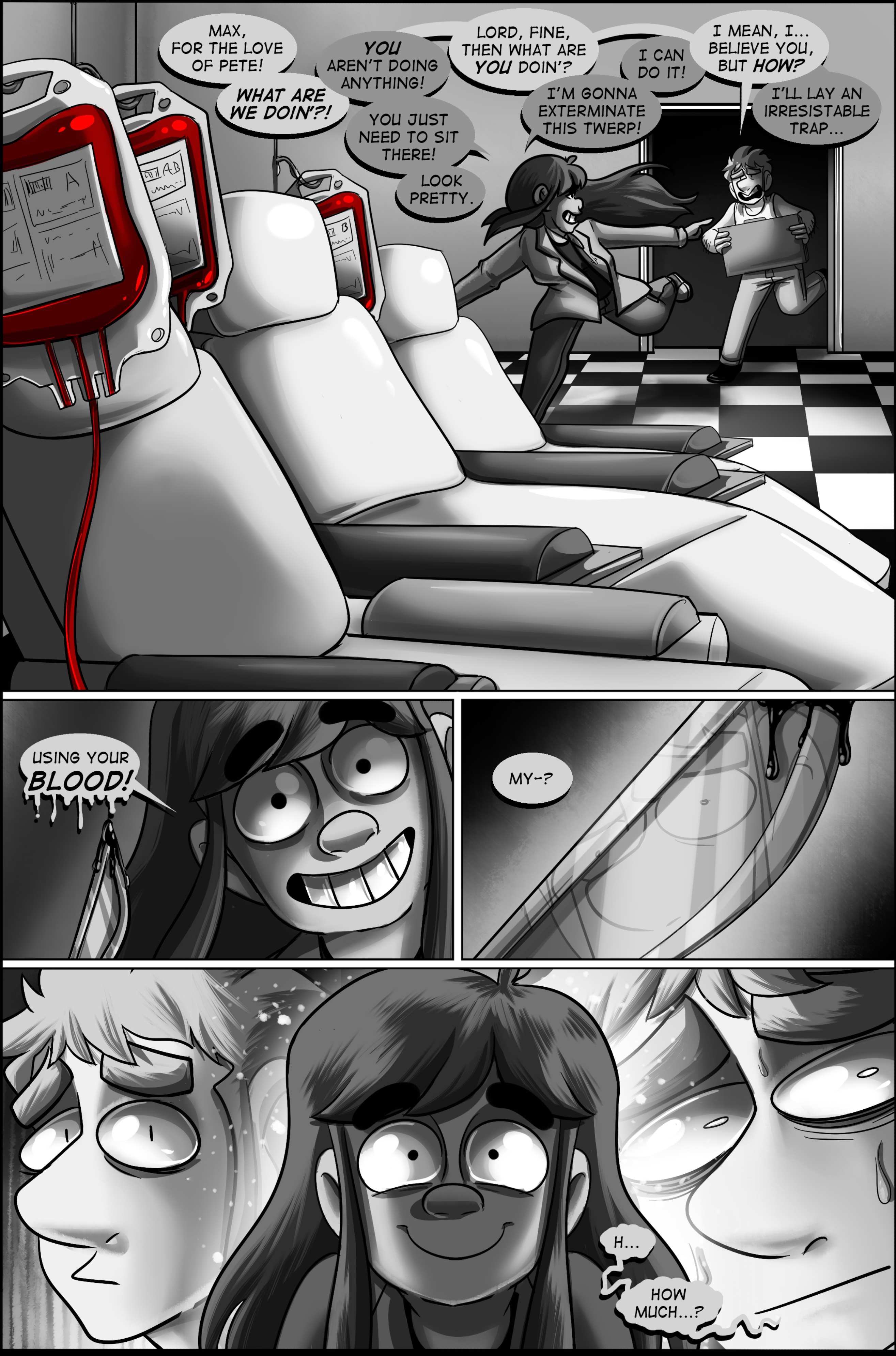

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SLAM!!
SLAM!!
YOU'RE GONNA PICK A FIGHT *NOW?!*
GET OVER HERE AND KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED, YOU MORON!
SLAM!!
FLIP OUT ON YOUR OWN TIME!
YOU'RE ON THE CLOCK!
PROBLEM NUMBER ONE:
YOU LET THIS HOMICIDAL LITTLE BASTARD IN HERE TO RIP ME TO SHREDS.
WHAT, SO NOW IT'S MY FAULT YOU CAN'T HANDLE A 10 YEAR OLD?!
GROW UP!
SLAM!!
PROBLEM NUMBER TWO:
THUMP!
WE'RE GOIN' TO DIE.
WE'RE NOT GONNA DIE-
SLAM!!
YOU WENT INTO THIS HALF-COCKED AND NOW WE'RE GOIN' TO DIE!
JESUS.
WE HAVE NO PLAN AND WE ARE GOIN' TO DIE!
HEY, WE HAVE A PLAN!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I HAVE GOING ON IN MY HEAD!
WELL, IF THAT AIN'T THE GODDAMN TRUTH!
HEY!

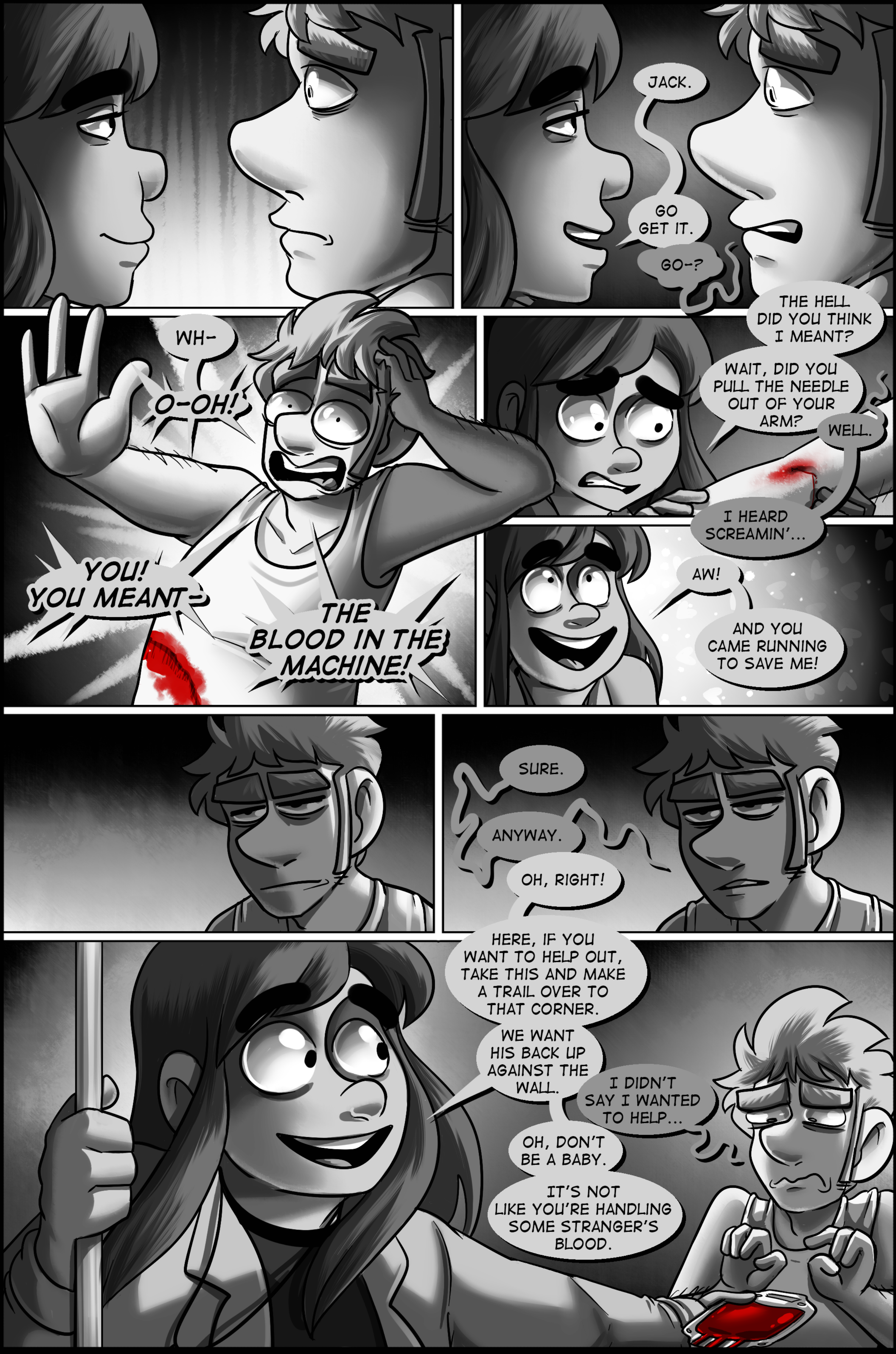

PROBLEM NUMBER THREE:
EVEN IF WE DO SOMEHOW SURVIVE THIS-
IF BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WE LEAVE HERE LIMBS INTACT THROUGH SOME AWFUL MIRACLE-
WHAT THE HELL DO WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO?
WE LIVE IN A FILTHY PIT OF AN APARTMENT, MY JOB IS A DEAD END AND YOURS IS, WELL, A DEADER END.
WHAT THE FUCK DO WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO?
SLA
SLA
GOD!
SHUT UP!!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
I WANT A GODDAMN APOLOGY!
FOR W-
FOR WHAT?!
IMPROVING OUR LIVES YOU HATE SO MUCH? I'M TRYING!
FOR GETTIN' US KILLED!
YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF ME THAT YOU'RE CONVINCED I'D LET A 10 YEAR OLD KILL YOU.
COME ON.
THINK ABOUT ALL THE SHIT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU AND I.
I HAVEN'T KILLED YOU YET.
CAN YOU JUST...TRUST ME?
TO DO MY JOB?
SLAM!!
SLAM!!
SLAM!!
INHALE
NO.

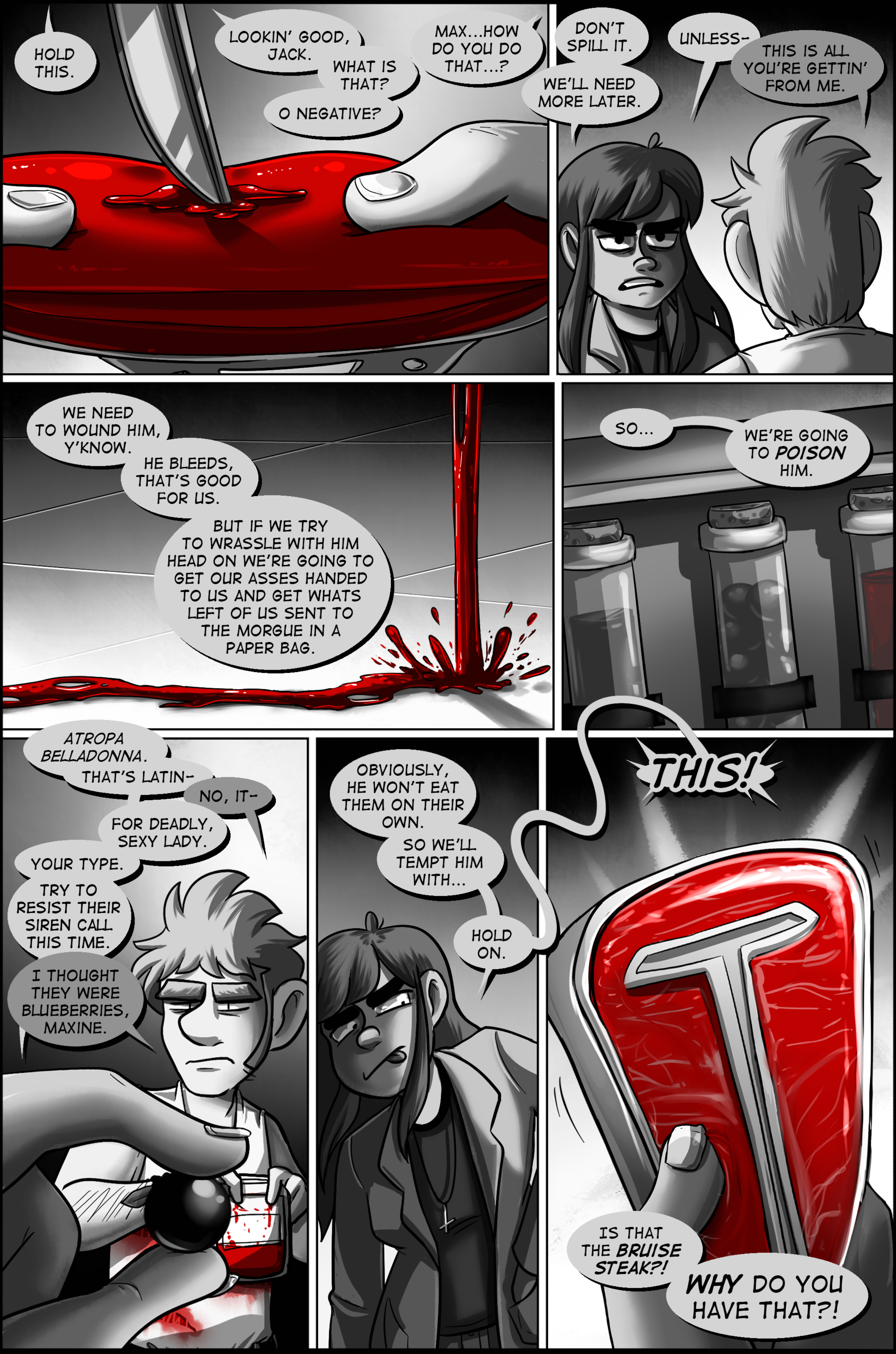

DON'T BE A BABY-
SLAM!
AHH! SHIT!
OPEN!!
SLAM!
OH GOD.
OH LORD.
W-WHAT ARE WE GOIN' TO ...?
I DON'T KNOW!
YOU-
YOU-
YOU DON'T KNOW?!
HOW-
...WHAT AM I SAYIN'. 'COURSE YOU DON'T.
WHEN HAVE YOU EVER?
OHHH MY GOD!
AM!
SO YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHING!
ALRIGHT, GIVE ME A MINUTE. IT'S UH, SOLID, CORRECT?
LAM!
SLAM!
AM!
YEAH, WE ESTABLISHED THAT WHEN MY ATHAME GOT STUCK IN ITS HEAD.
THE WH-? AH, RIGHT. THE KNIFE.
WELL, WE'RE USUALLY A LITTLE MORE PREPARED BUT-
IN THE PAST WE'VE HAD SOME SUCCESS IN UH... *PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATIN'* THEM.
YOU WANT TO...
BARE-KNUCKLE BOX THE GHOST.
THAT'S YOUR PLAN.

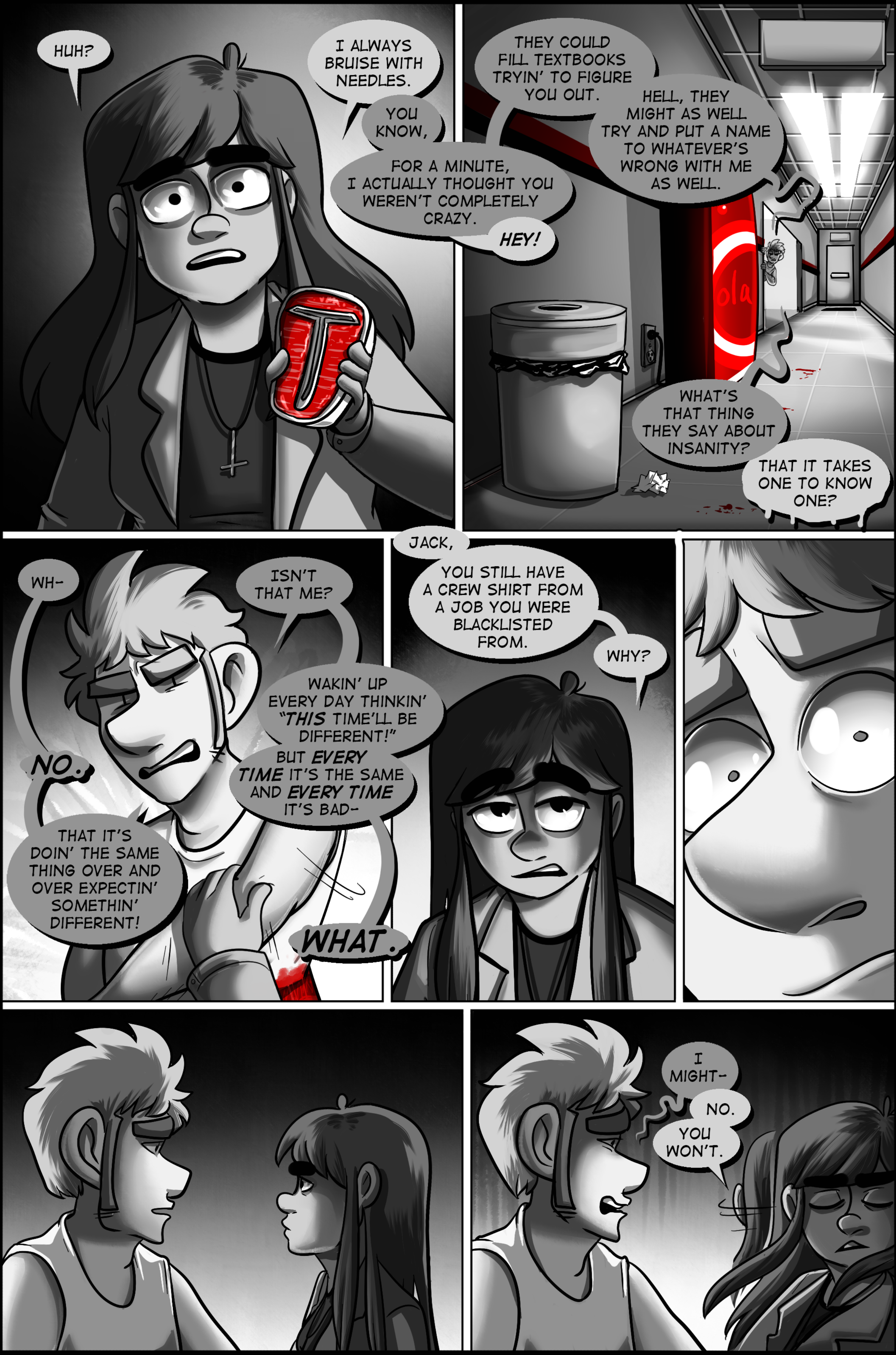

...
COME UP WITH A BETTER IDEA-
JACK!
NO!
THAT'S IT!
I'M COMING UP WITH A BETTER IDEA!
I MISSPOKE!
JACK HENDERSON, WITH GOD AS MY WITNESS,
I'M GOING TO GET US OUT OF HERE!
ALIVE!
OH MAXINE, PLEASE DON'T MAKE ANY MORE PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP.
JACK, I NEED YOU TO PUT AT LEAST A LITTLE FAITH IN ME, PLEASE.
...OKA-
GREAT!
SKIP THAT LIKE A ROCK, WOULDYA?
OKAY, ON THE COUNT OF THREE:
ONE.
HOLD ON NOW-
TWO.
WAIT! MAXINE, YOU DIDN'T EXPLAIN-
THREE!
BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING?!

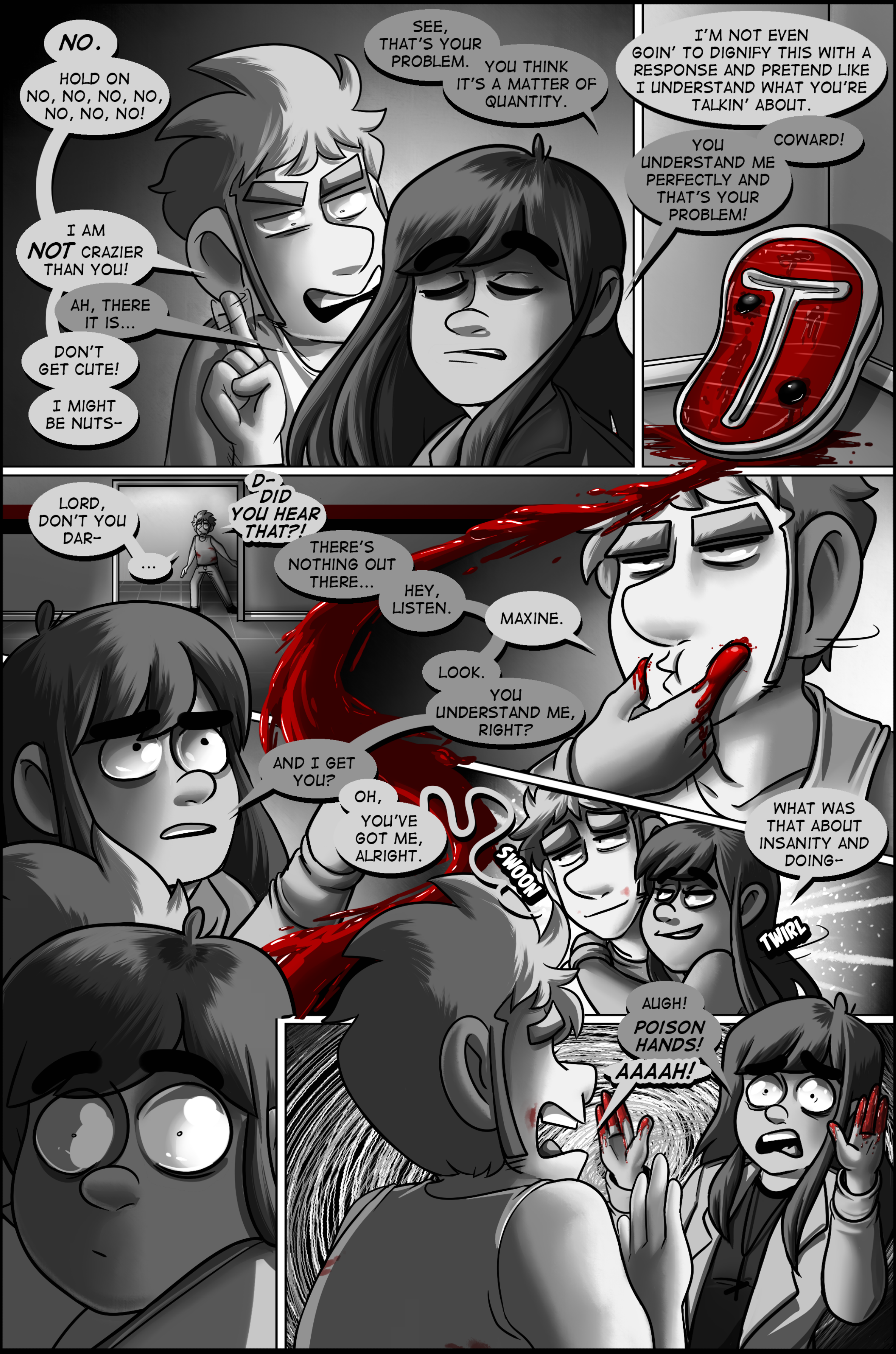

LET ME-
IN?
SLAM!!
HAAUGAUHGHAUGA
AUHGHAUHGUGA
THUMP!
SLIP!
THWIP
THWIP
THWUMP!
AUGGHH!!
THUMP!
I'LL TAKE THAT BACK NOW,
IF YOU DON'T MIND.
THANKS FOR KEEPING IT WARM!
SPLORT
TAKE THIS!
OW.
WH-
THUMP
COME ON! WE GOTTA HOOF IT DOWNSTAIRS!
JACK! HEY!!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
RUN!

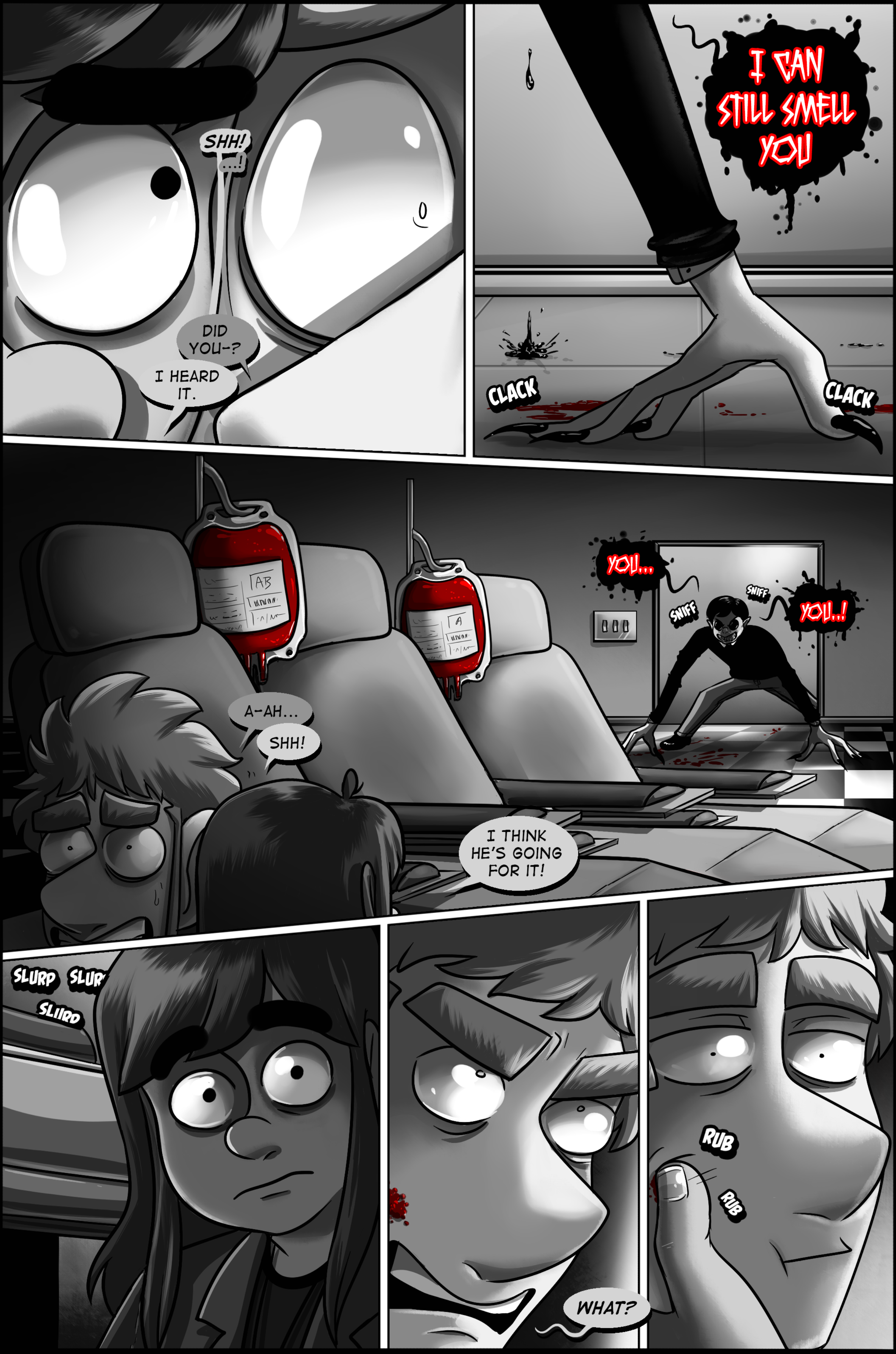

MAX, FOR THE LOVE OF PETE!
WHAT ARE WE DOIN'?!
YOU AREN'T DOING ANYTHING!
YOU JUST NEED TO SIT THERE!
LOOK PRETTY.
LORD, FINE, THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?
I'M GONNA EXTERMINATE THIS TWERP!
I CAN DO IT!
I MEAN, I... BELIEVE YOU, BUT HOW?
I'LL LAY AN IRRESISTABLE TRAP...
A
AB
B
USING YOUR BLOOD!
MY-?
H...
HOW MUCH...?

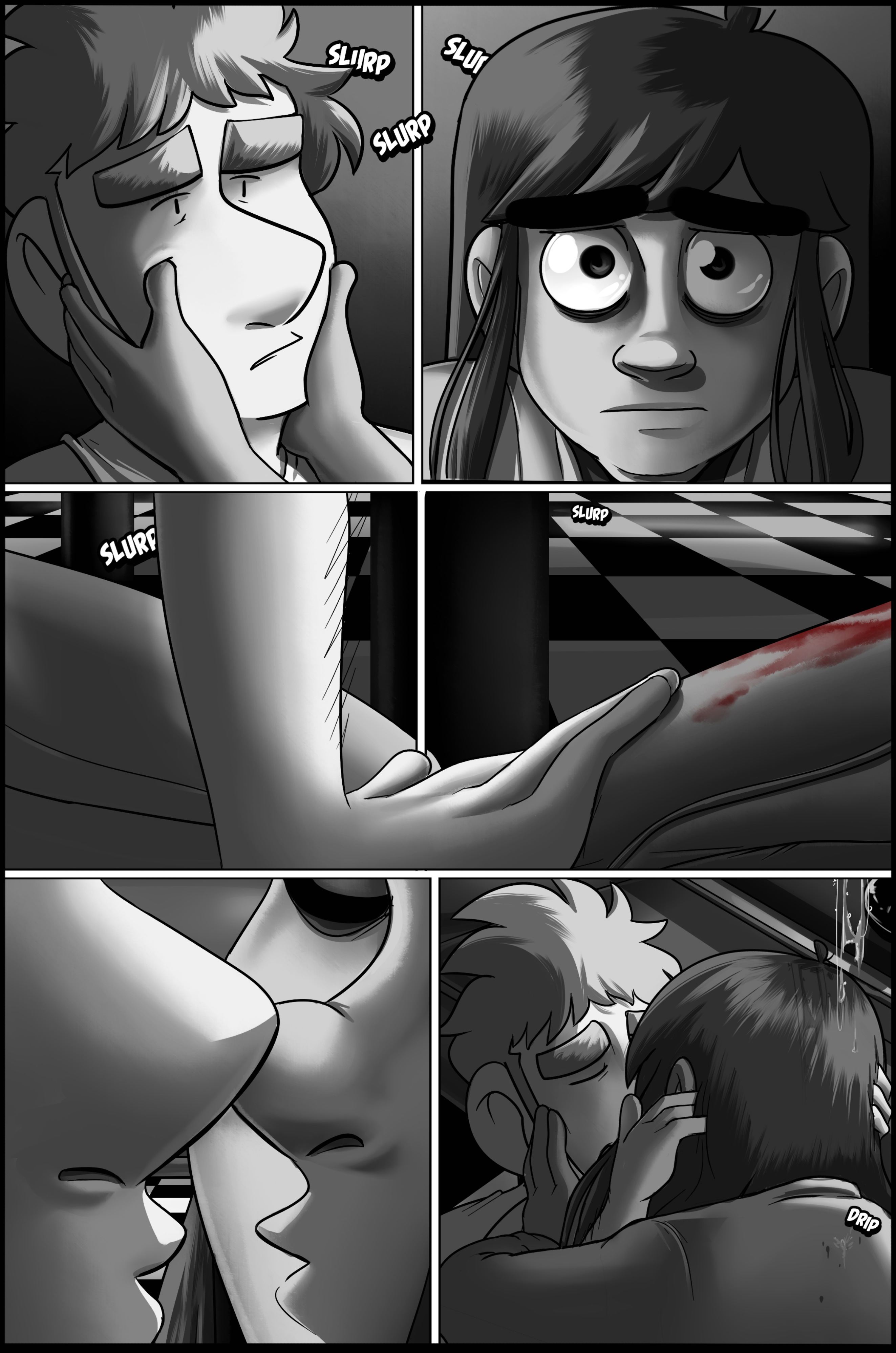

JACK.
GO GET IT.
GO-?
WH-
O-OH!
YOU! YOU MEANT-
THE BLOOD IN THE MACHINE!
THE HELL DID YOU THINK I MEANT?
WAIT, DID YOU PULL THE NEEDLE OUT OF YOUR ARM?
WELL.
I HEARD SCREAMIN'...
AW!
AND YOU CAME RUNNING TO SAVE ME!
SURE.
ANYWAY.
OH, RIGHT!
HERE, IF YOU WANT TO HELP OUT, TAKE THIS AND MAKE A TRAIL OVER TO THAT CORNER.
WE WANT HIS BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL.
I DIDN'T SAY I WANTED TO HELP...
OH, DON'T BE A BABY.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE HANDLING SOME STRANGER'S BLOOD.

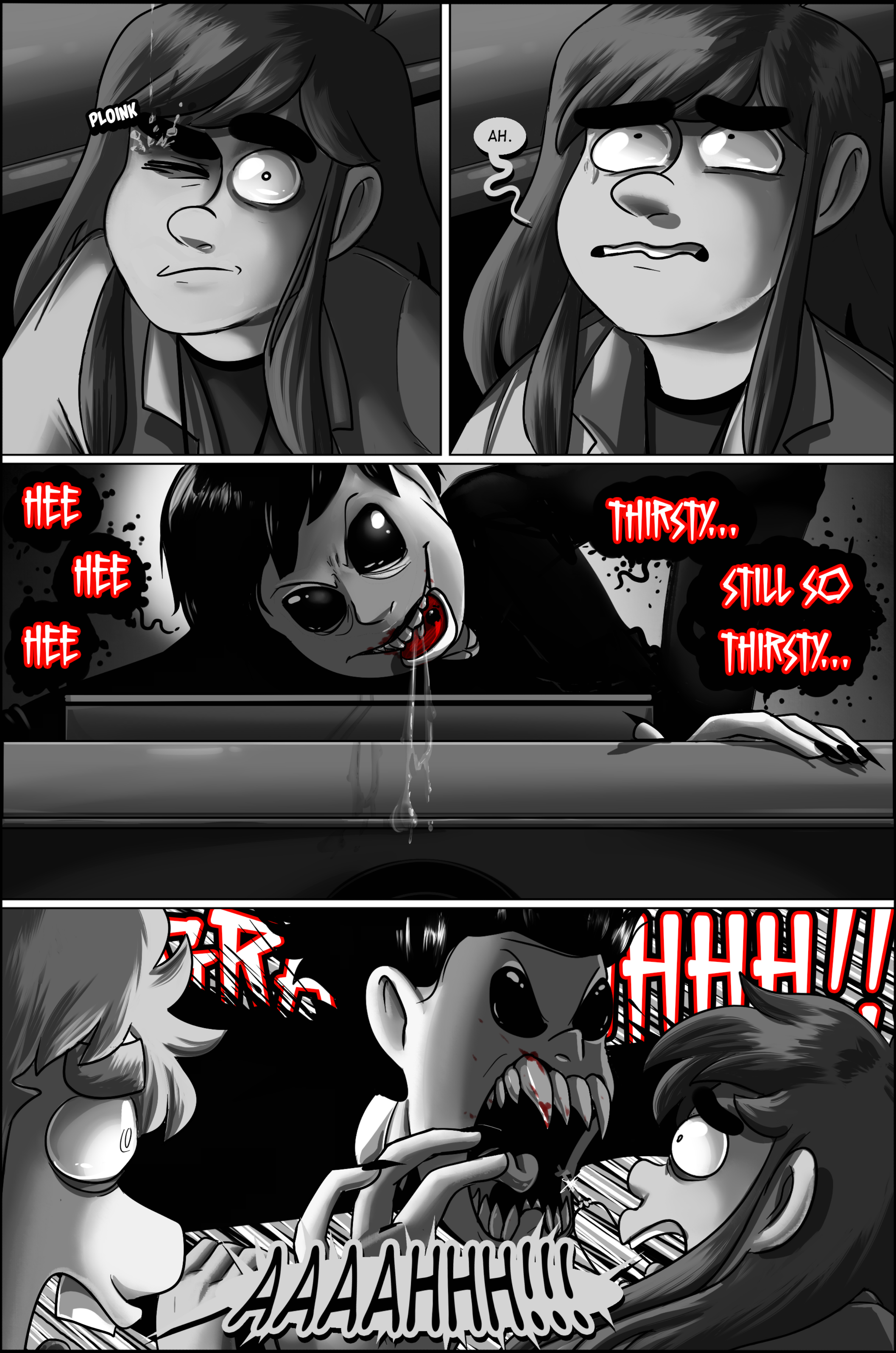

HOLD THIS.
LOOKIN' GOOD, JACK.
WHAT IS THAT?
O NEGATIVE?
MAX...HOW DO YOU DO THAT...?
DON'T SPILL IT.
WE'LL NEED MORE LATER.
UNLESS-
THIS IS ALL YOU'RE GETTIN' FROM ME.
WE NEED TO WOUND HIM, Y'KNOW.
HE BLEEDS, THAT'S GOOD FOR US.
BUT IF WE TRY TO WRASSLE WITH HIM HEAD ON WE'RE GOING TO GET OUR ASSES HANDED TO US AND GET WHATS LEFT OF US SENT TO THE MORGUE IN A PAPER BAG.
SO...
WE'RE GOING TO *POISON* HIM.
ATROPA BELLADONNA.
THAT'S LATIN-
NO, IT-
FOR DEADLY, SEXY LADY.
YOUR TYPE.
TRY TO RESIST THEIR SIREN CALL THIS TIME.
I THOUGHT THEY WERE BLUEBERRIES, MAXINE.
OBVIOUSLY, HE WON'T EAT THEM ON THEIR OWN.
SO WE'LL TEMPT HIM WITH...
HOLD ON.
THIS!
IS THAT THE *BRUISE STEAK?!*
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT?!

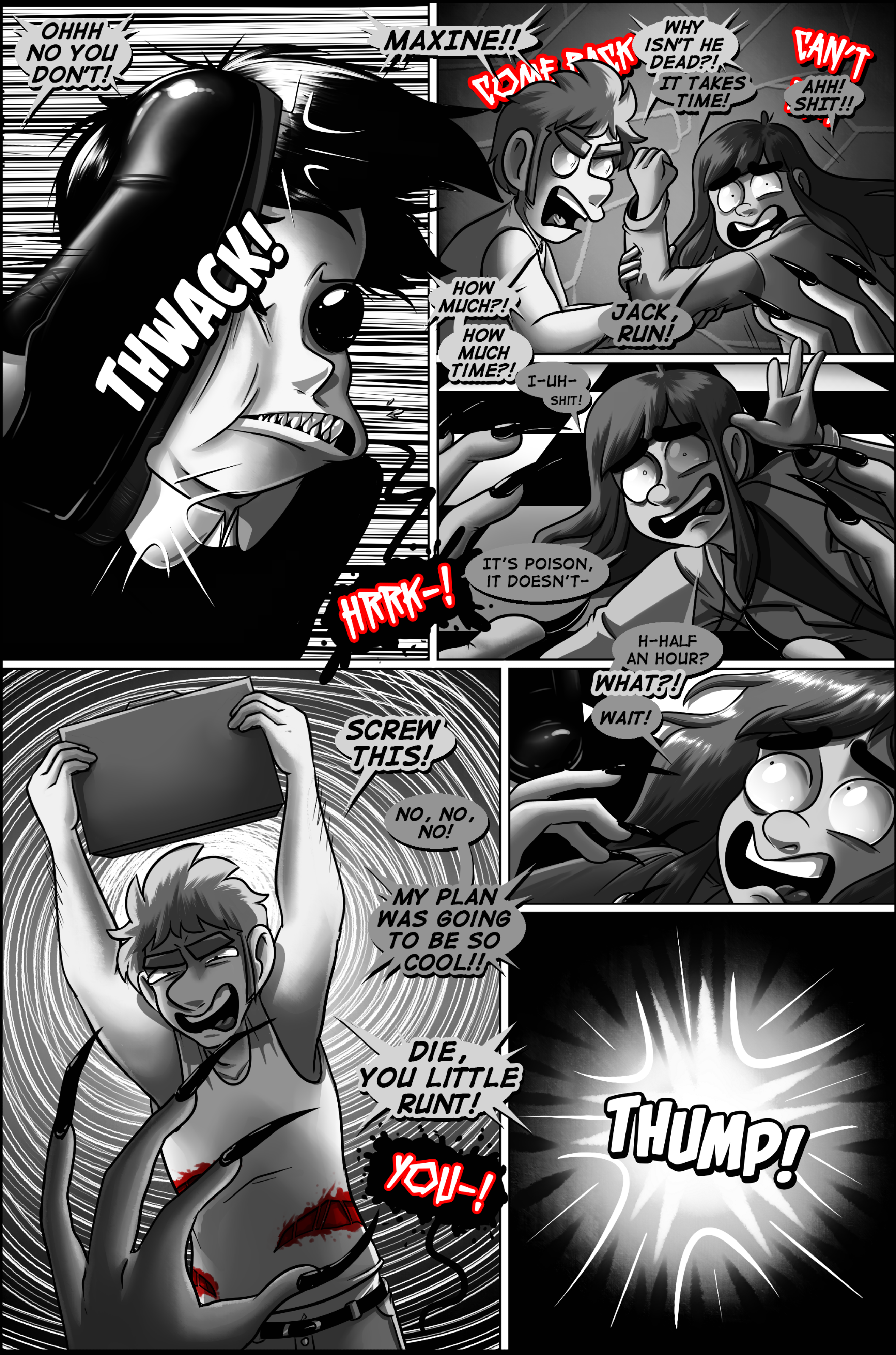

HUH?
I ALWAYS BRUISE WITH NEEDLES.
YOU KNOW,
FOR A MINUTE, I ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T COMPLETELY CRAZY.
HEY!
THEY COULD FILL TEXTBOOKS TRYIN' TO FIGURE YOU OUT.
HELL, THEY MIGHT AS WELL TRY AND PUT A NAME TO WHATEVER'S WRONG WITH ME AS WELL.
ola
WHAT'S THAT THING THEY SAY ABOUT INSANITY?
THAT IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE?
WH-
NO.
THAT IT'S DOIN' THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER EXPECTIN' SOMETHIN' DIFFERENT!
ISN'T THAT ME?
WAKIN' UP EVERY DAY THINKIN' "*THIS* TIME'LL BE DIFFERENT!"
BUT *EVERY TIME* IT'S THE SAME AND *EVERY TIME* IT'S BAD-
WHAT.
JACK,
YOU STILL HAVE A CREW SHIRT FROM A JOB YOU WERE BLACKLISTED FROM.
WHY?
I MIGHT-
NO. YOU WON'T.

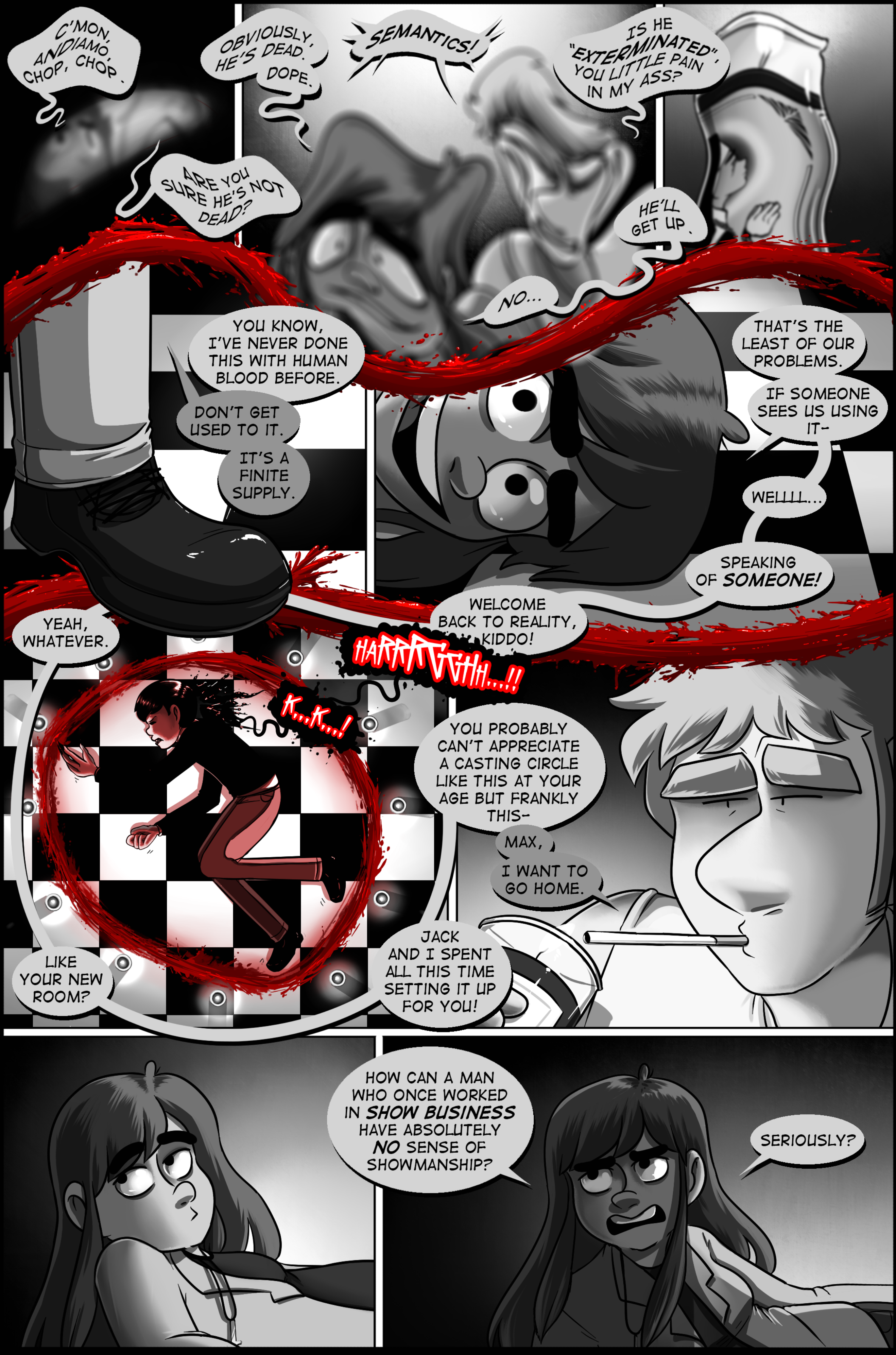

NO.
HOLD ON NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!
SEE, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.
YOU THINK IT'S A MATTER OF QUANTITY.
I AM *NOT* CRAZIER THAN YOU!
AH, THERE IT IS...
DON'T GET CUTE!
I MIGHT BE NUTS-
I'M NOT EVEN GOIN' TO DIGNIFY THIS WITH A RESPONSE AND PRETEND LIKE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT.
YOU UNDERSTAND ME PERFECTLY AND THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!
COWARD!
LORD, DON'T YOU DAR-
D-DID YOU HEAR THAT?!
...
THERE'S NOTHING OUT THERE...
HEY, LISTEN.
MAXINE.
LOOK.
YOU UNDERSTAND ME, RIGHT?
AND I GET YOU?
OH, YOU'VE GOT ME, ALRIGHT.
SWOON
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT INSANITY AND DOING-
TWIRL
AUGH! POISON HANDS!
AAAAH!

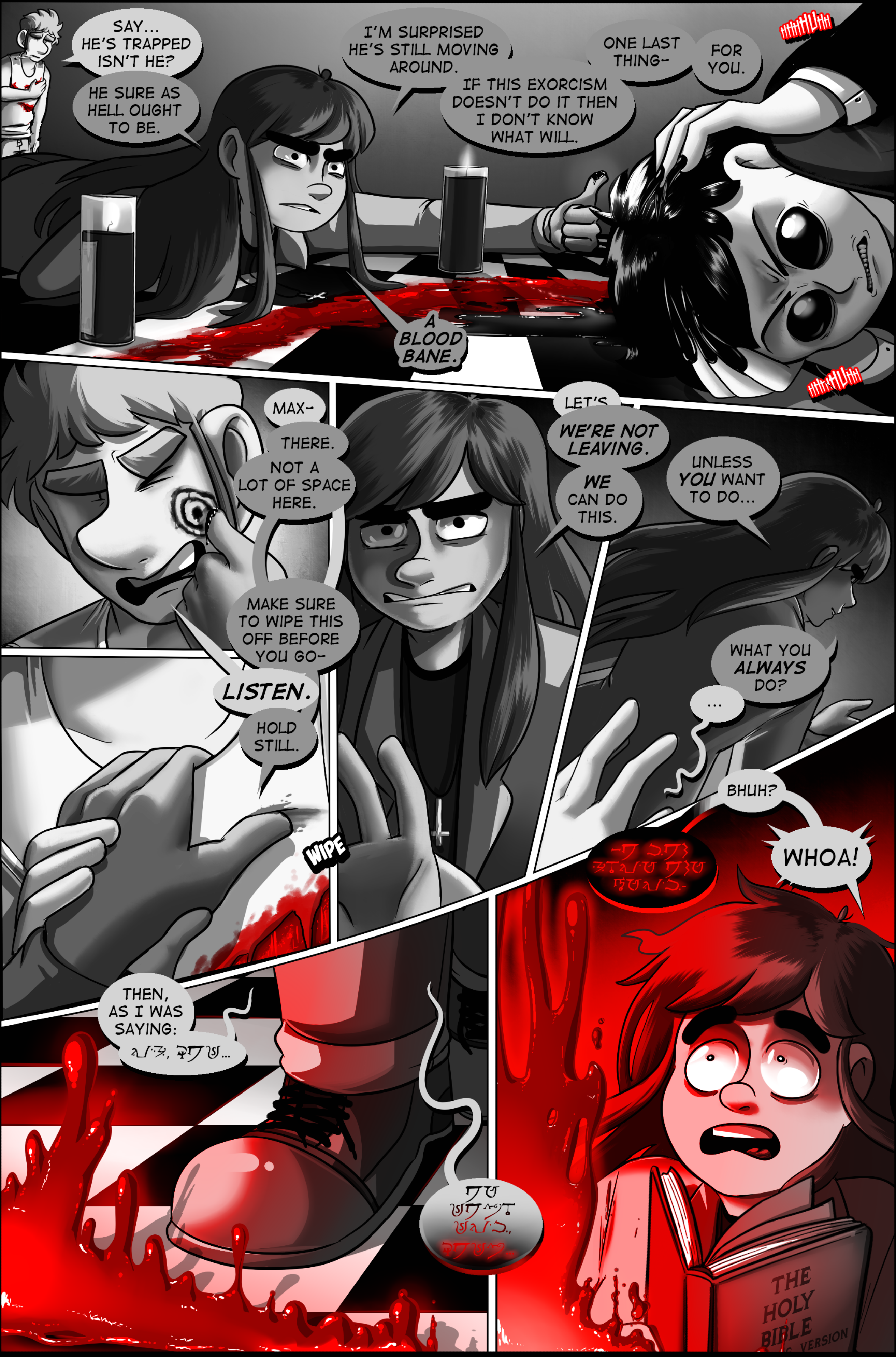

SHH!
...!
DID YOU-?
I HEARD IT.
I CAN STILL SMELL YOU
CLACK
CLACK
AB
A
YOU...
SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU..!
A-AH...
SHH!
I THINK HE'S GOING FOR IT!
SLURP SLURP
SLURP
RUB
RUB
WHAT?

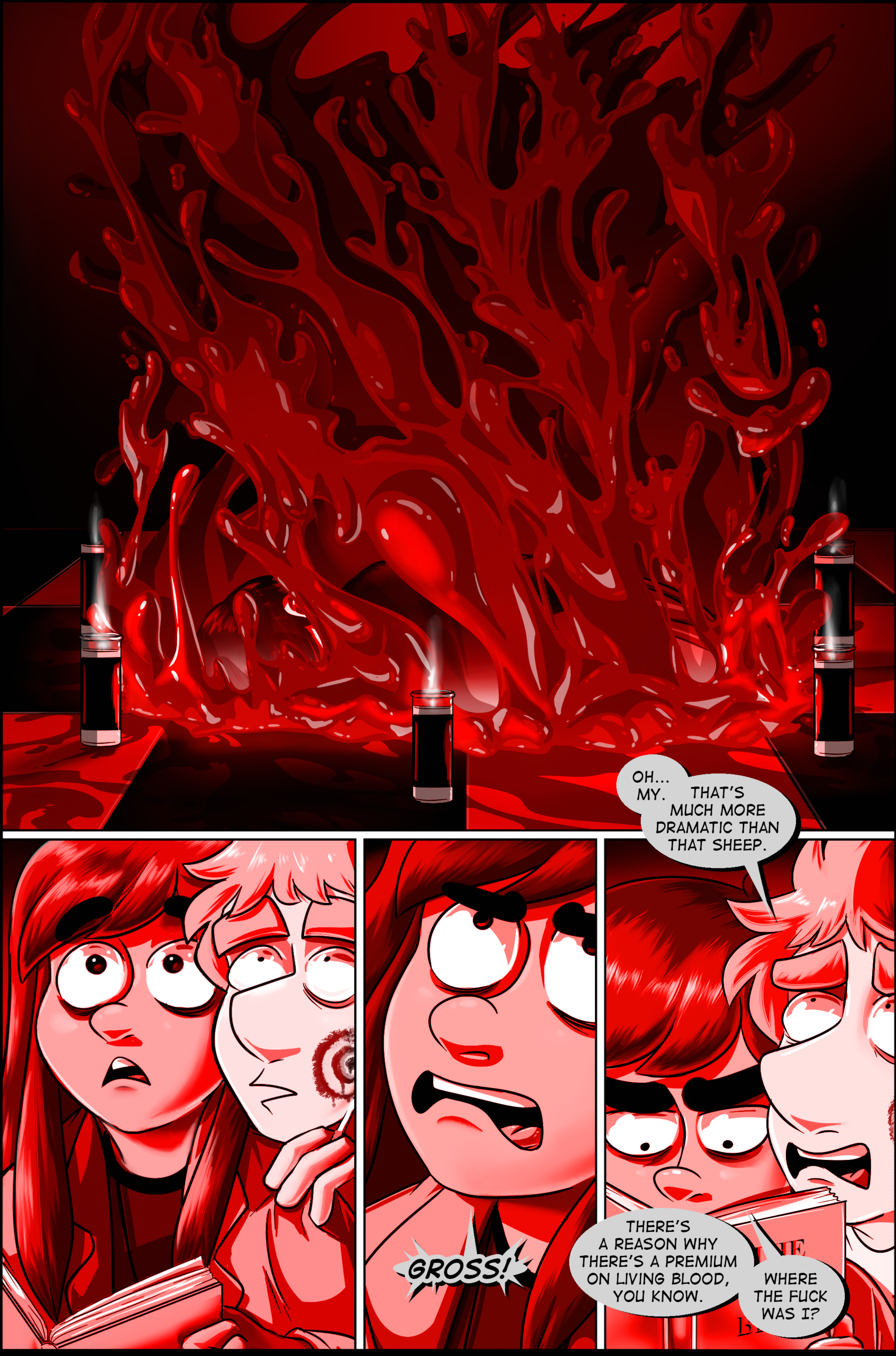

SLURP
SLURP
SLU
SLURP
SLURP
DRIP

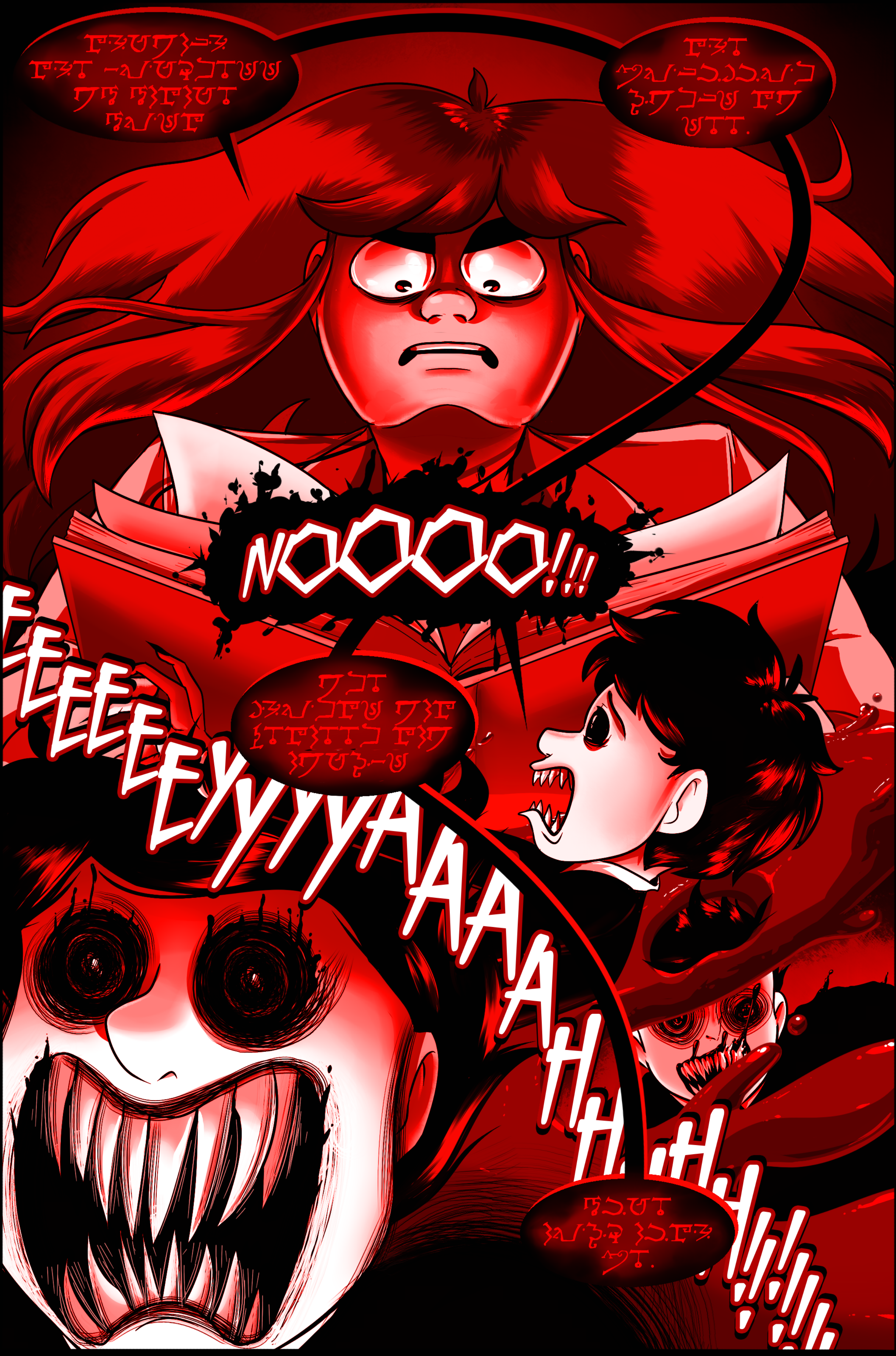

PLOINK
AH.
HEE
HEE
HEE
THIRSTY...
STILL SO
THIRSTY...
RR
HHHH!!
AAAAHHH!!...

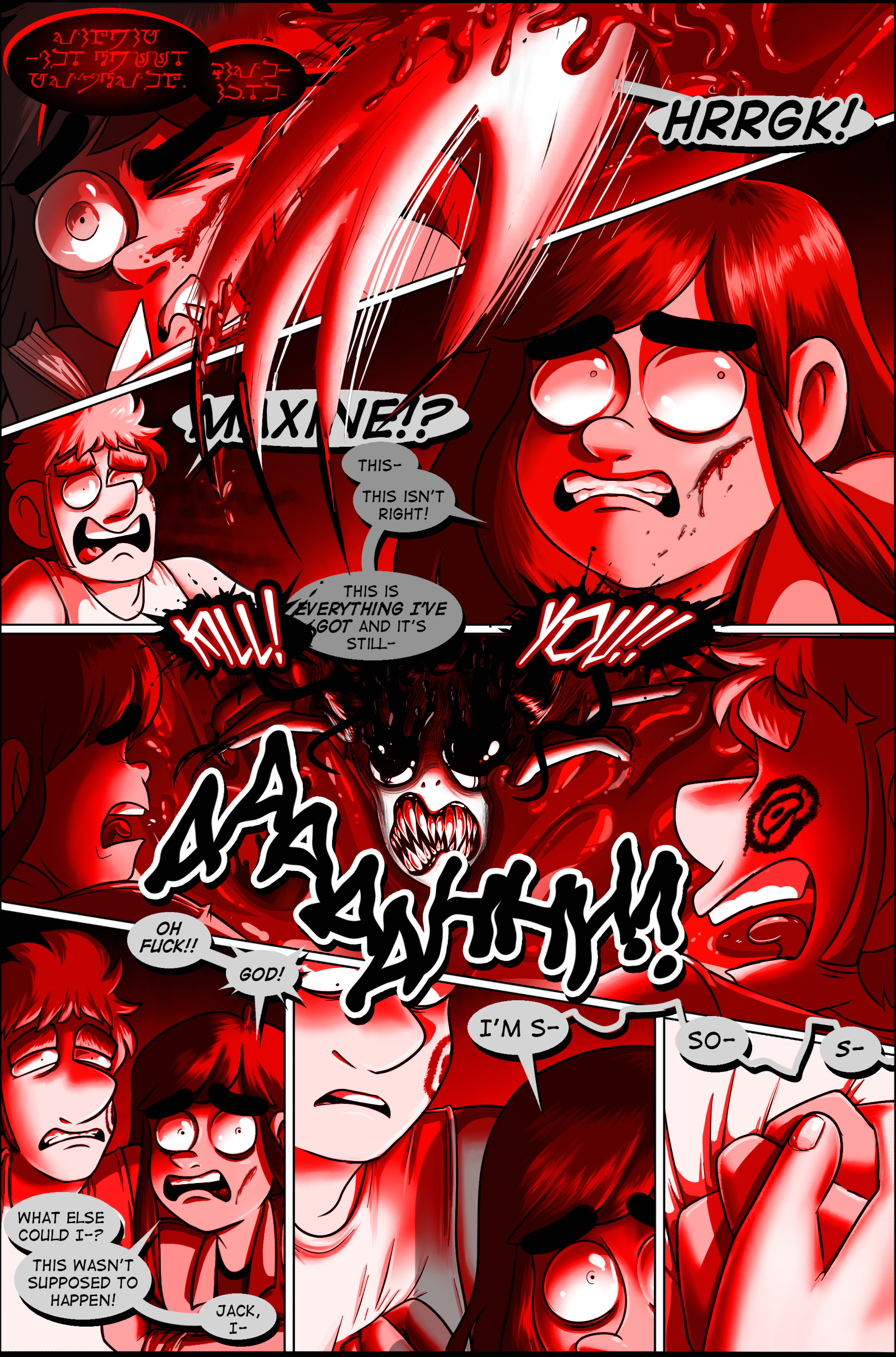

OHHH NO YOU DON'T!
THWACK!
MAXINE!!
COME BACK
WHY ISN'T HE DEAD?!
IT TAKES TIME!
CAN'T
AHH! SHIT!!
HOW MUCH?!
JACK, RUN!
HOW MUCH TIME?!
I-UH- SHIT!
HRRK-!
IT'S POISON, IT DOESN'T-
H-HALF AN HOUR?
WHAT?!
WAIT!
SCREW THIS!
NO, NO, NO!
MY PLAN WAS GOING TO BE SO COOL!!
DIE, YOU LITTLE RUNT!
YOU-!
THUMP!

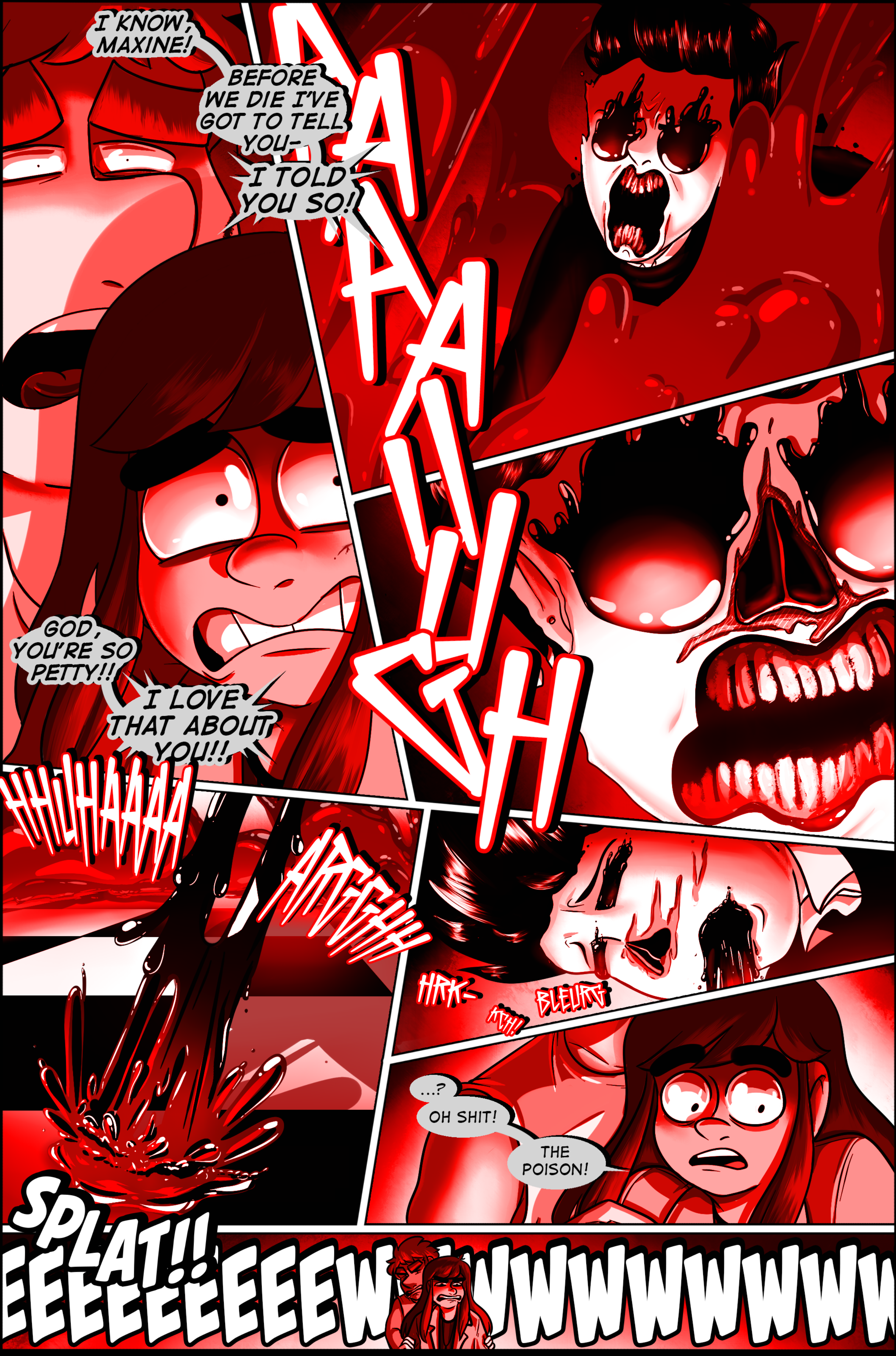

C'MON, ANDIAMO, CHOP, CHOP.
ARE YOU SURE HE'S NOT DEAD?
OBVIOUSLY, HE'S DEAD.
DOPE.
SEMANTICS!
IS HE "EXTERMINATED", YOU LITTLE PAIN IN MY ASS?
HE'LL GET UP.
NO...
YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER DONE THIS WITH HUMAN BLOOD BEFORE.
DON'T GET USED TO IT.
IT'S A FINITE SUPPLY.
THAT'S THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS.
IF SOMEONE SEES US USING IT-
WELLLL...
SPEAKING OF *SOMEONE!*
WELCOME BACK TO REALITY, KIDDO!
YEAH, WHATEVER.
HARRRGGHH...!!
K...K...!
YOU PROBABLY CAN'T APPRECIATE A CASTING CIRCLE LIKE THIS AT YOUR AGE BUT FRANKLY THIS-
MAX,
I WANT TO GO HOME.
JACK AND I SPENT ALL THIS TIME SETTING IT UP FOR YOU!
LIKE YOUR NEW ROOM?
HOW CAN A MAN WHO ONCE WORKED IN *SHOW BUSINESS* HAVE ABSOLUTELY *NO* SENSE OF SHOWMANSHIP?
SERIOUSLY?

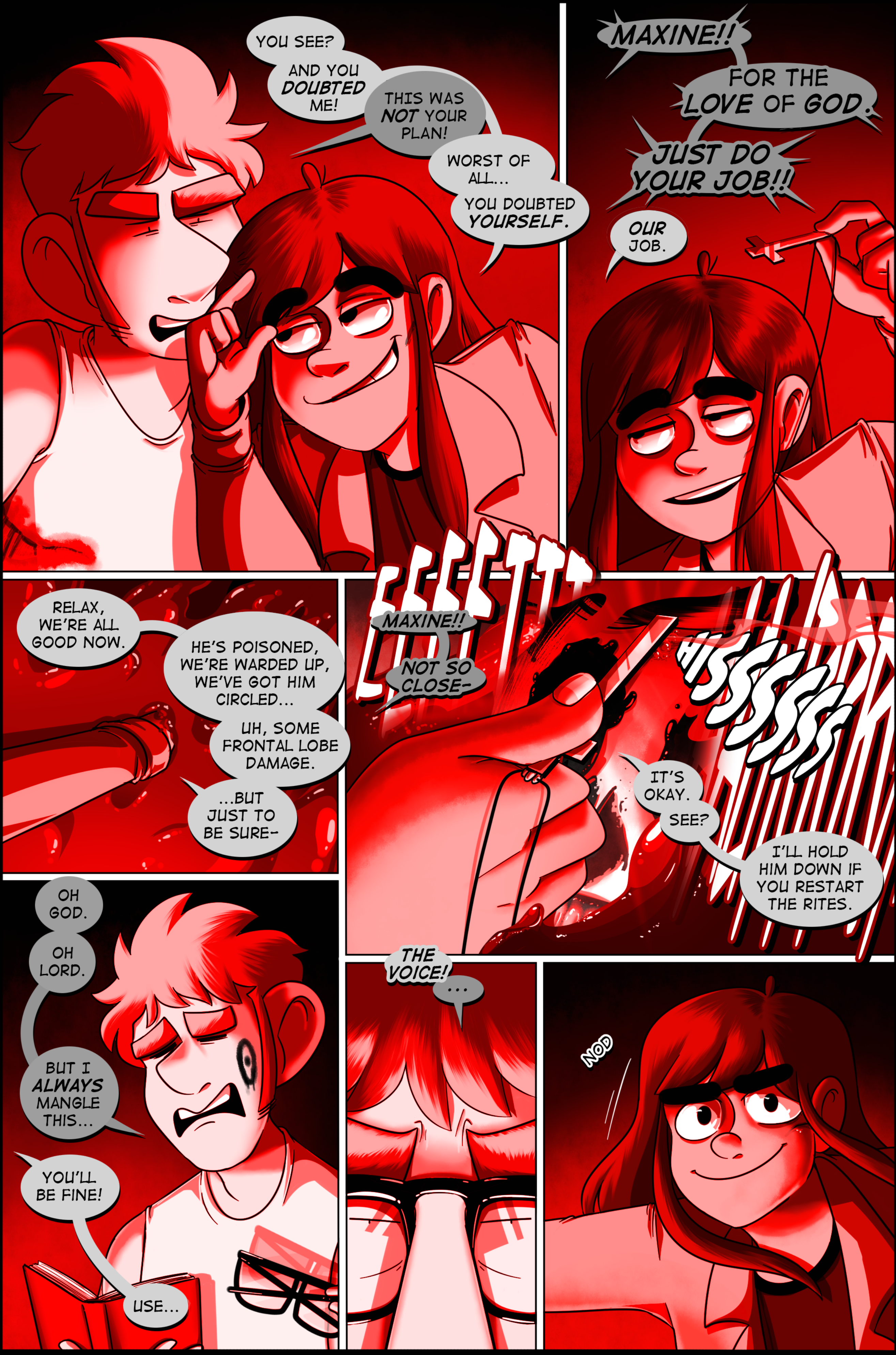

SAY... HE'S TRAPPED ISN'T HE?
HE SURE AS HELL OUGHT TO BE.
I'M SURPRISED HE'S STILL MOVING AROUND.
IF THIS EXORCISM DOESN'T DO IT THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL.
ONE LAST THING-
FOR YOU.
HHHHUHH
A BLOOD BANE.
HHHHUHH
MAX-
THERE.
NOT A LOT OF SPACE HERE.
MAKE SURE TO WIPE THIS OFF BEFORE YOU GO-
LISTEN.
HOLD STILL.
WIPE
LET'S
WE'RE NOT LEAVING.
WE CAN DO THIS.
UNLESS YOU WANT TO DO...
WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO?
...
BHUH?
WHOA!
THEN, AS I WAS SAYING:
THE HOLY BIBLE
VERSION

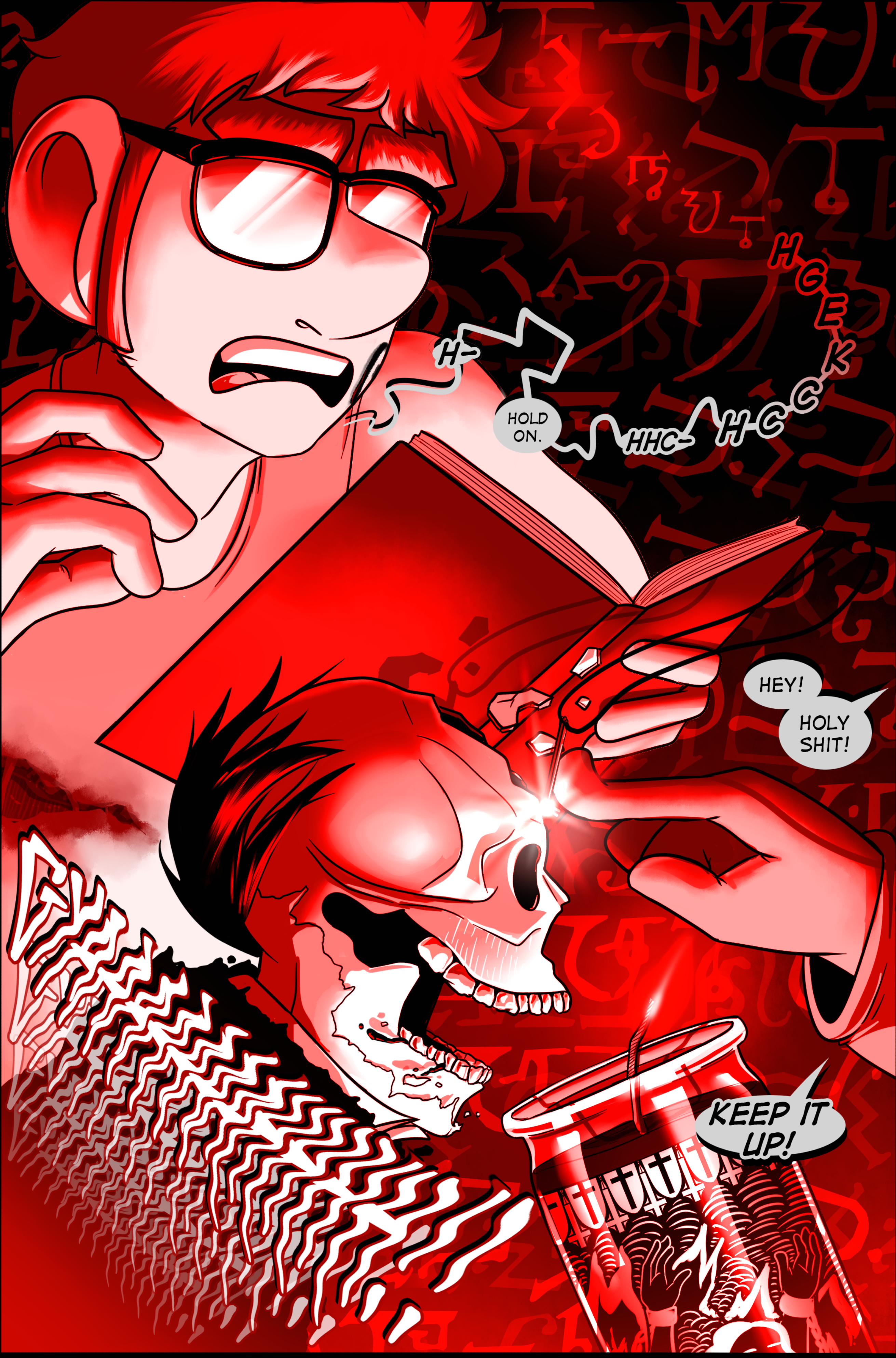

OH... MY.
THAT'S MUCH MORE DRAMATIC THAN THAT SHEEP.
GROSS!
THERE'S A REASON WHY THERE'S A PREMIUM ON LIVING BLOOD, YOU KNOW.
WHERE THE FUCK WAS I?

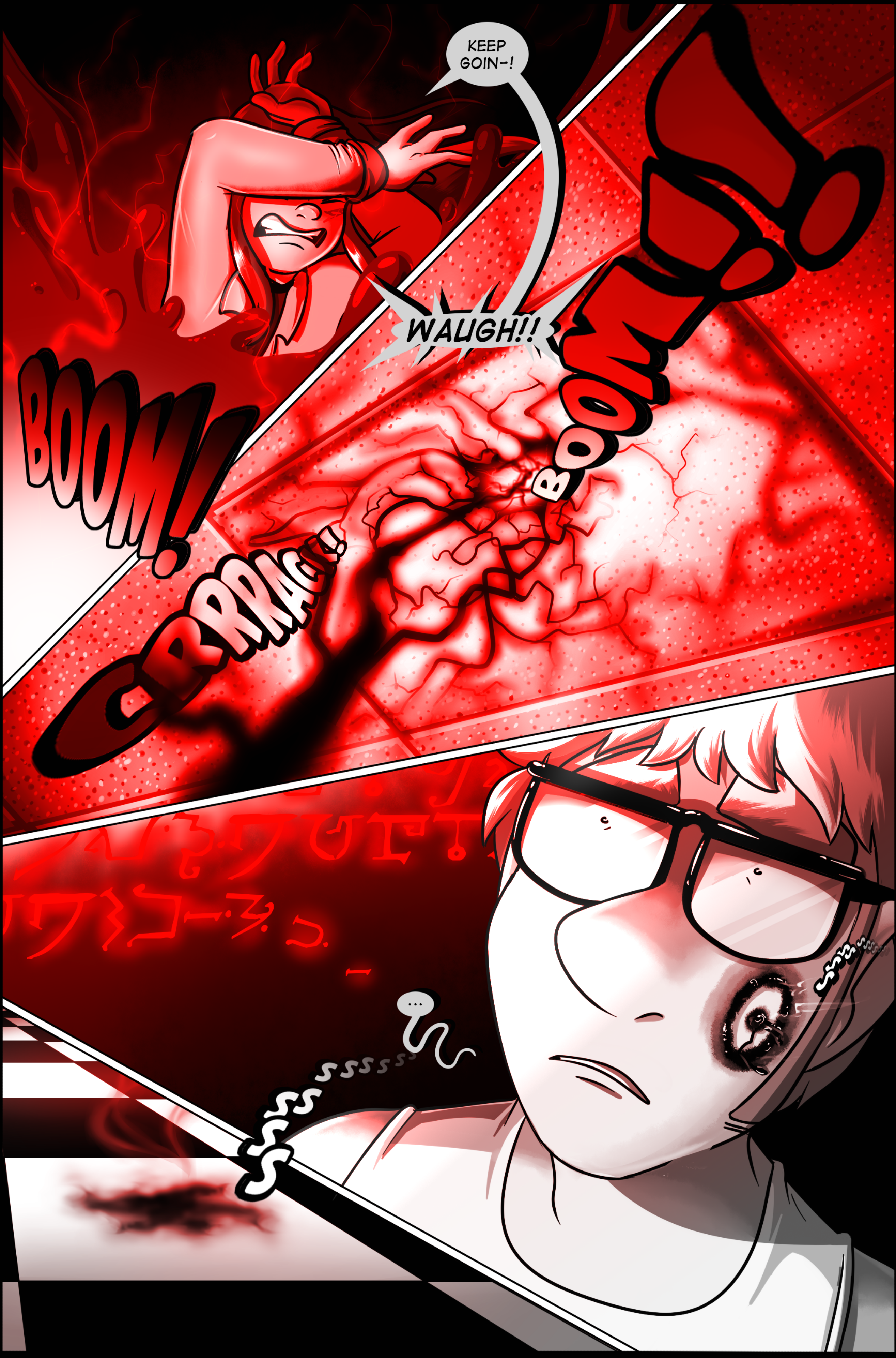

NOOOO!!!
EEEEEEEYYYYAAAAHHHHH!!!!!!

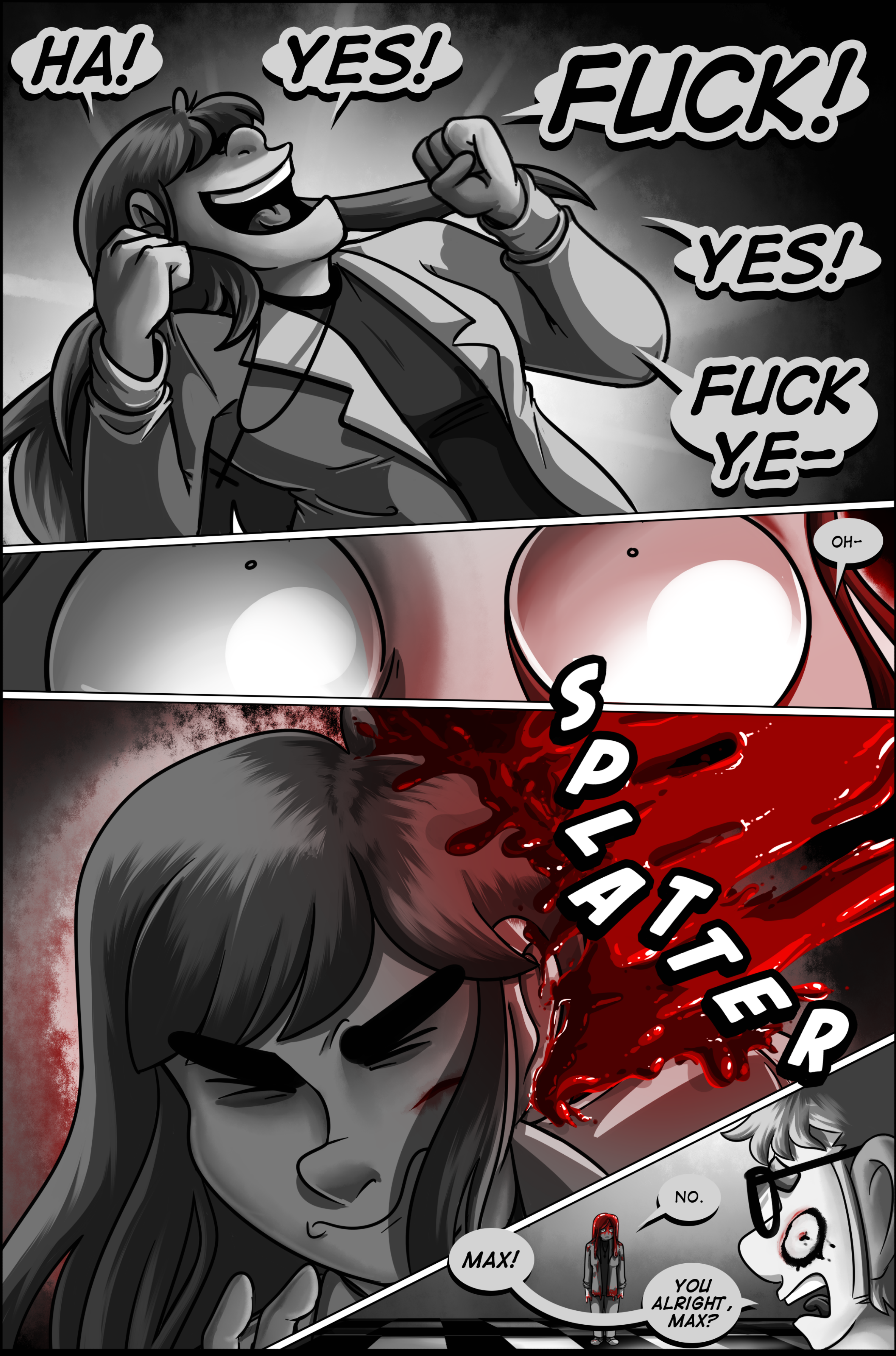

HRRGK!
MAXINE!?
THIS-
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
THIS IS *EVERYTHING I'VE GOT* AND IT'S STILL-
KILL!
YOU!!!
AAAAHHH!!
OH FUCK!!
GOD!
WHAT ELSE COULD I-?
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!
JACK, I-
I'M S-
SO-
S-

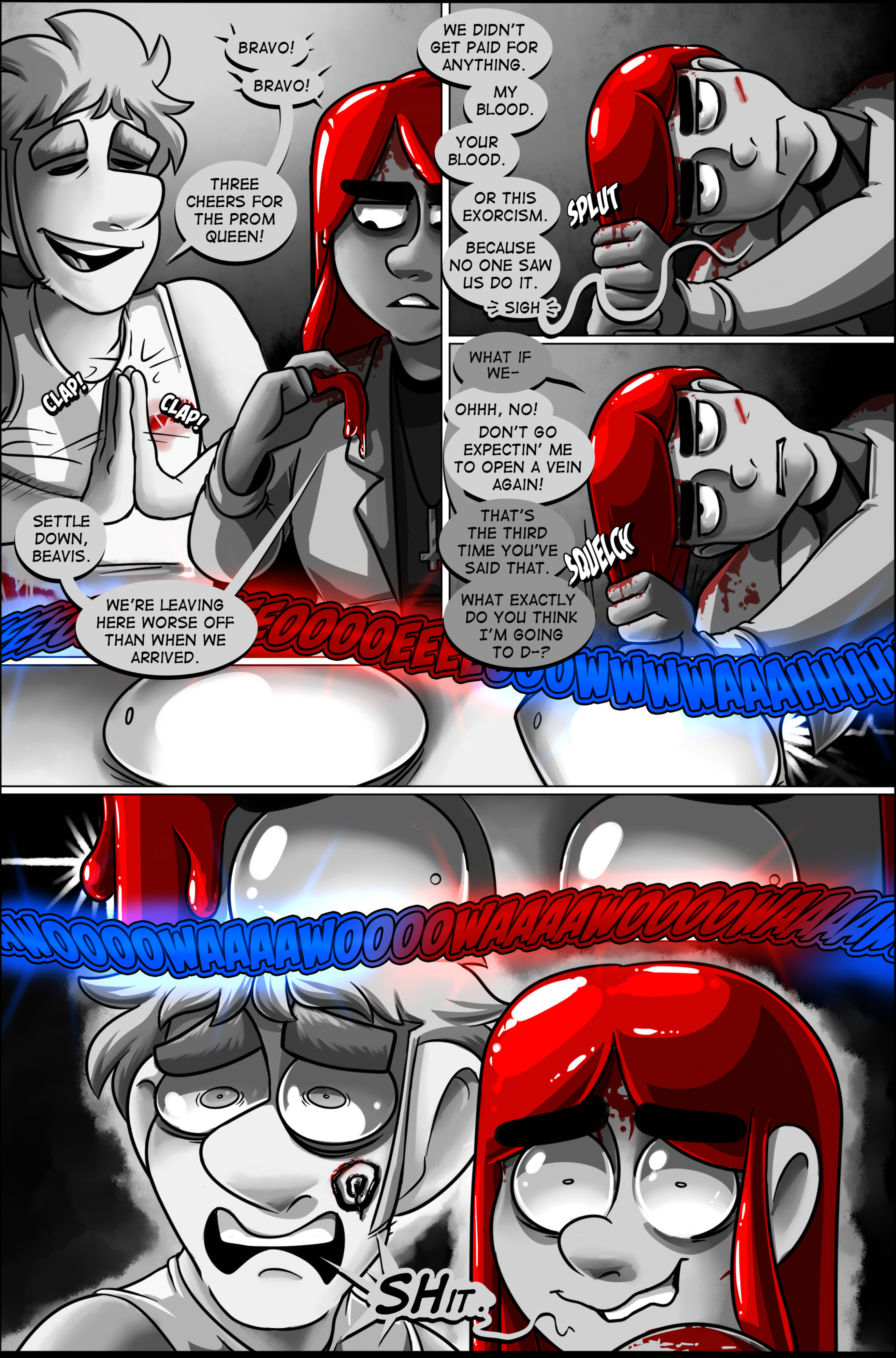

I KNOW, MAXINE!
BEFORE WE DIE I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU-
I TOLD YOU SO!!
AAAAAGH
GOD, YOU'RE SO PETTY!!
I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU!!
HHUHAAAA
ARGGHH
HRK-
KCH!
BLEURG
...?
OH SHIT!
THE POISON!
SPLAT!!
EEEEEEEEEEWWWWWWWWWW

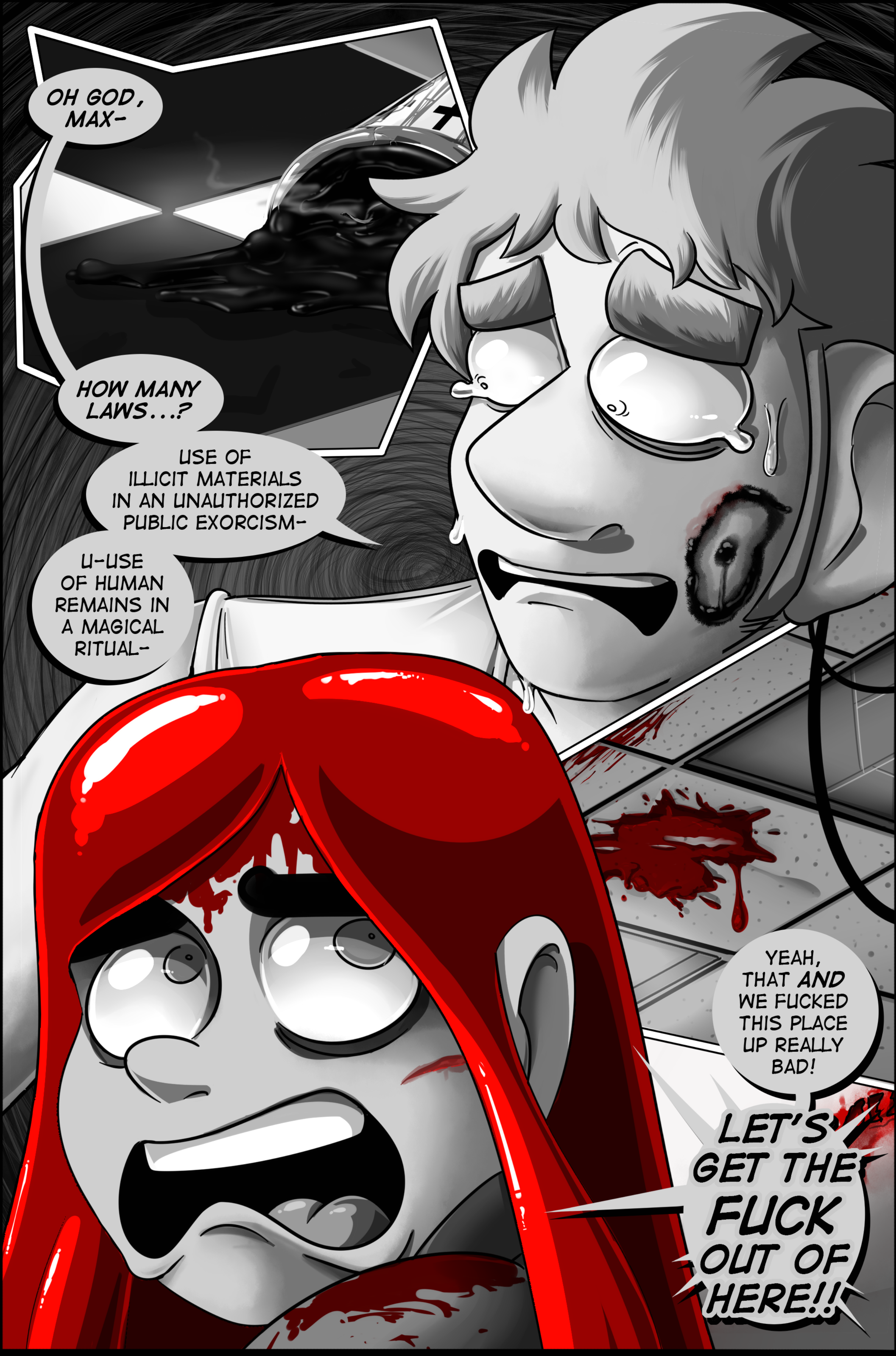

YOU SEE?
AND YOU *DOUBTED* ME!
THIS WAS *NOT* YOUR PLAN!
WORST OF ALL...
YOU DOUBTED *YOURSELF*.
MAXINE!!
FOR THE *LOVE* OF *GOD*.
JUST DO YOUR JOB!!
OUR JOB.
RELAX, WE'RE ALL GOOD NOW.
HE'S POISONED, WE'RE WARDED UP, WE'VE GOT HIM CIRCLED...
UH, SOME FRONTAL LOBE DAMAGE.
...BUT JUST TO BE SURE-
EEEETTT
MAXINE!!
NOT SO CLOSE-
HISSSSSSK
IT'S OKAY.
SEE?
I'LL HOLD HIM DOWN IF YOU RESTART THE RITES.
OH GOD.
OH LORD.
BUT I *ALWAYS* MANGLE THIS...
YOU'LL BE FINE!
USE...
THE VOICE!
...
NOD

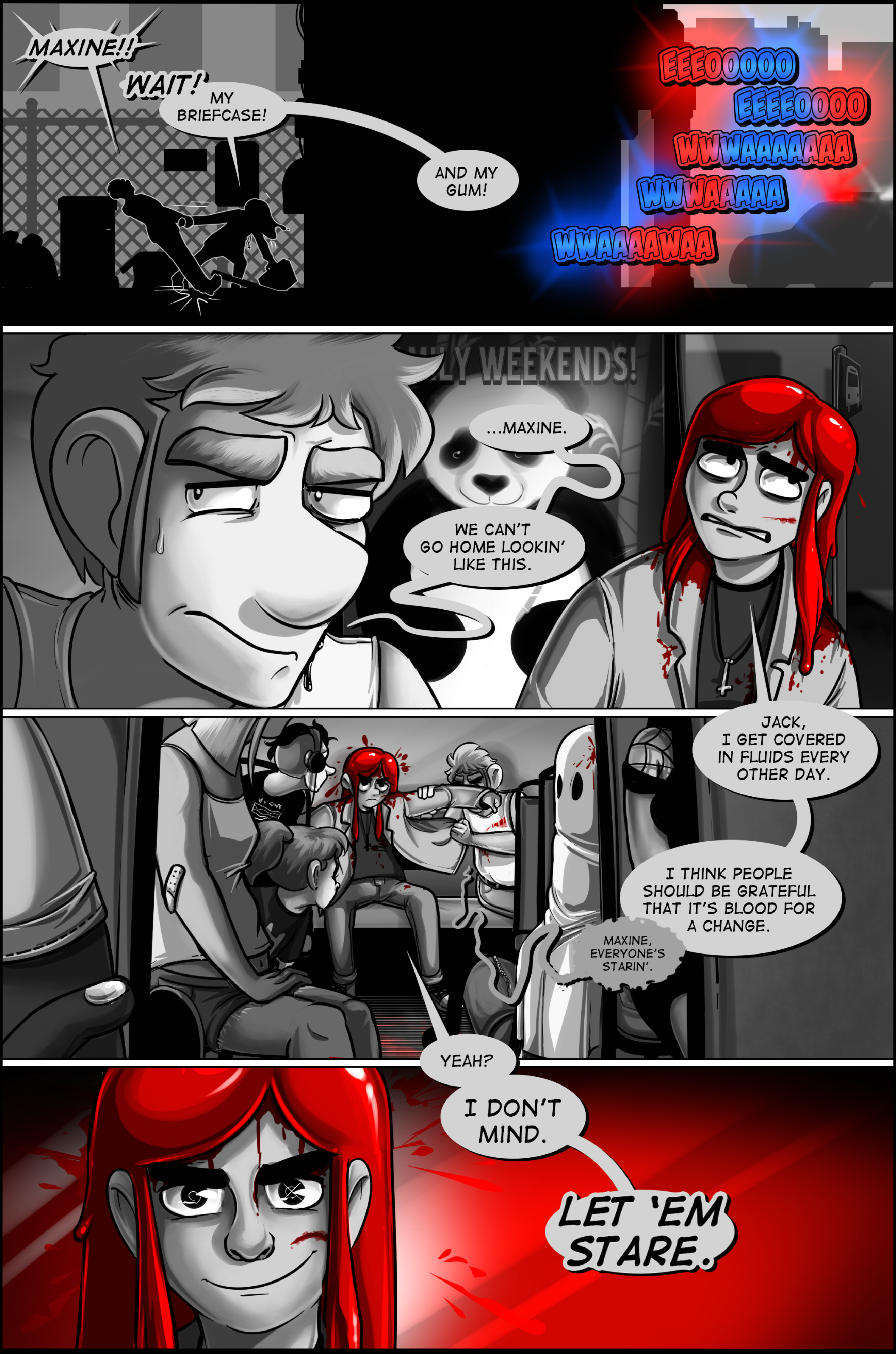

H-
HOLD ON.
HHC- H-CCKEGH
HEY!
HOLY SHIT!
KEEP IT UP!

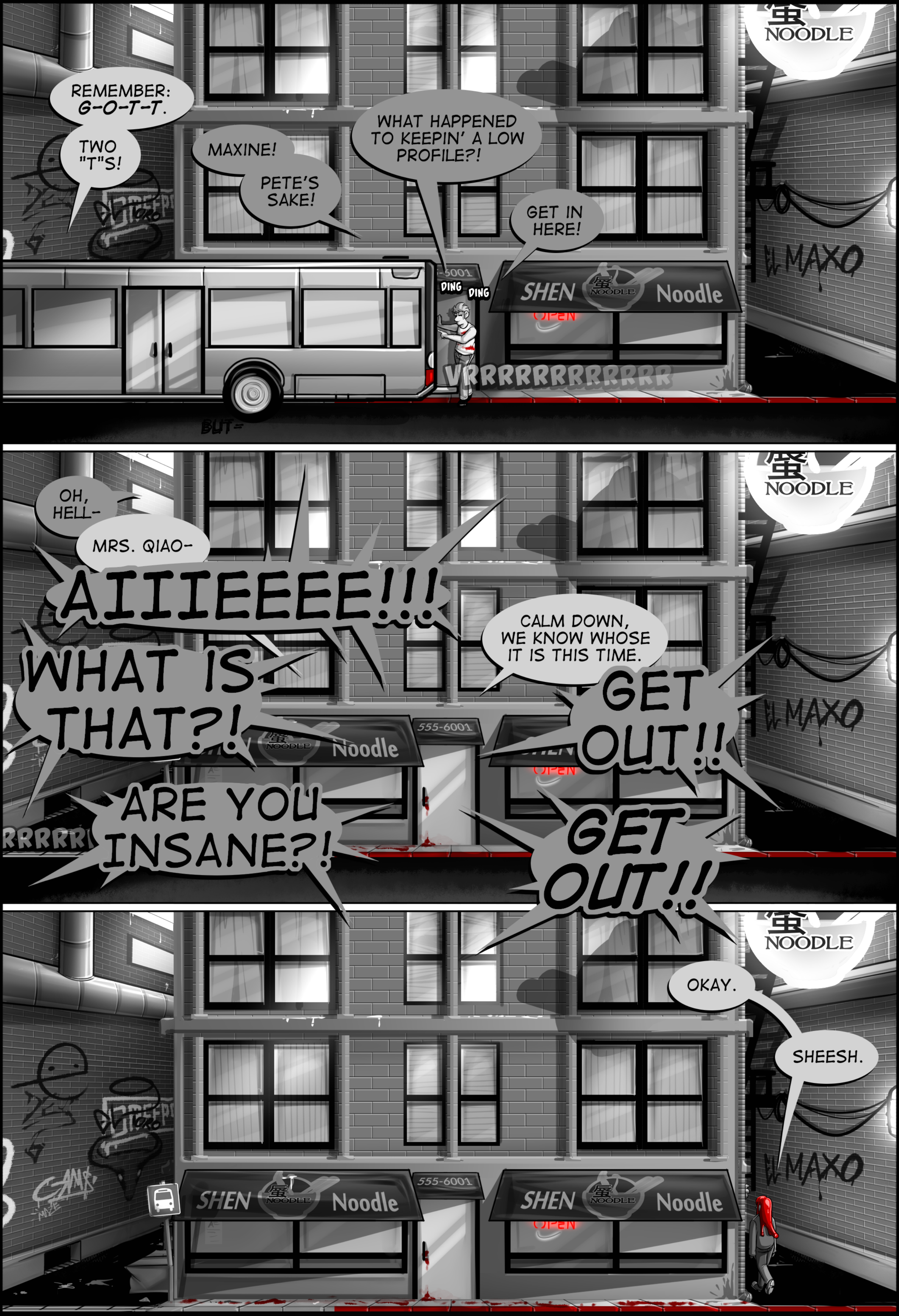

KEEP GOIN-!
WAUGH!!
BOOM!!
BOOM!
CRRRACK!!
...
SSSSSS
SSSSS

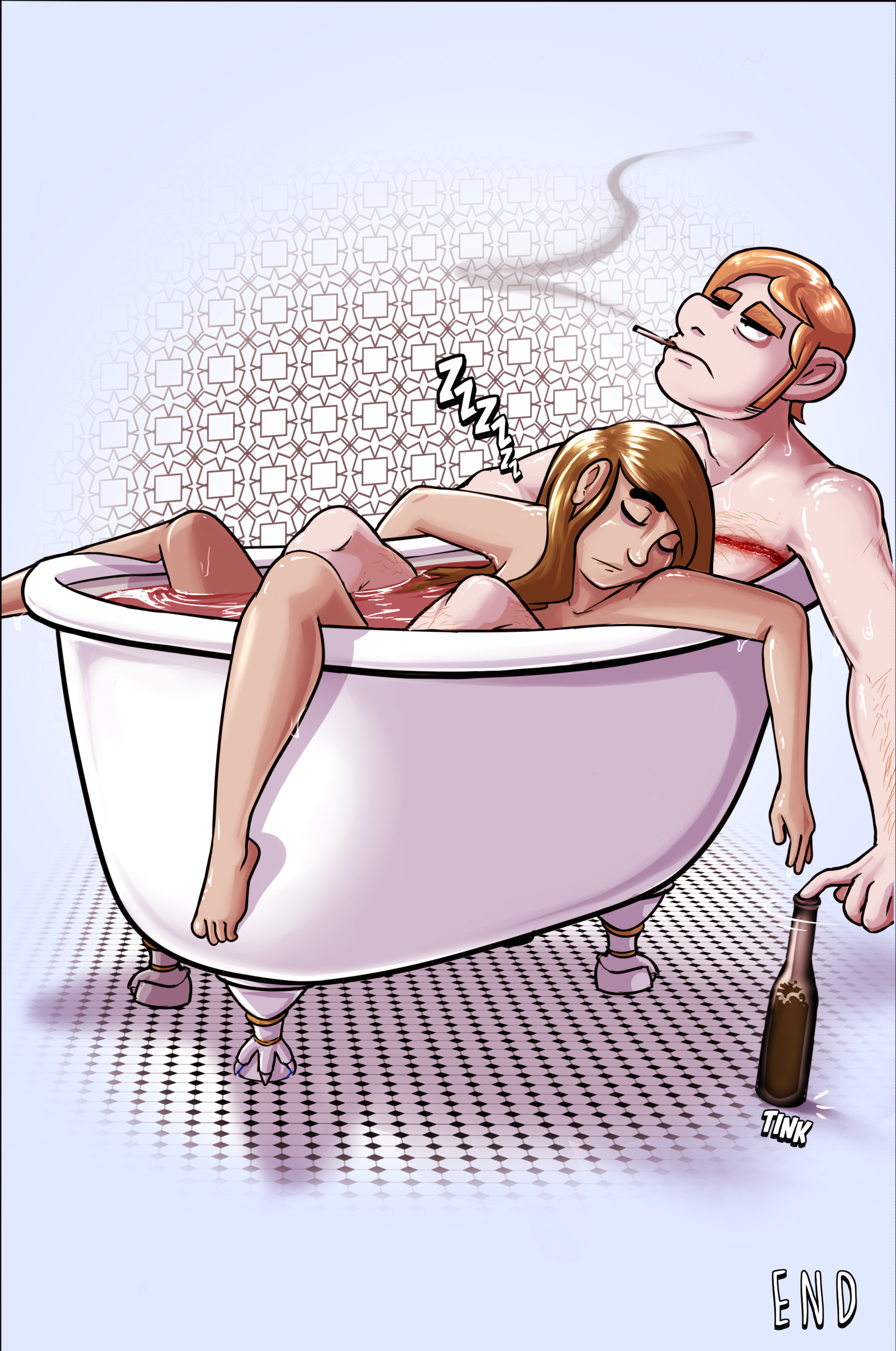

HA!
YES!
FUCK!
YES!
FUCK YE-
OH-
SPLATTER
MAX!
YOU ALRIGHT, MAX?
NO.


BRAVO!
BRAVO!
THREE CHEERS FOR THE PROM QUEEN!
CLAP!
CLAP!
SETTLE DOWN, BEAVIS.
WE'RE LEAVING HERE WORSE OFF THAN WHEN WE ARRIVED.
WE DIDN'T GET PAID FOR ANYTHING.
MY BLOOD.
YOUR BLOOD.
OR THIS EXORCISM.
BECAUSE NO ONE SAW US DO IT.
SIGH
SPLUT
WHAT IF WE-
OHHH, NO!
DON'T GO EXPECTIN' ME TO OPEN A VEIN AGAIN!
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE SAID THAT.
SQUELCH
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO D-?
EEEOOOOOEEEEOOOOWWWWAAAHHHH
WOOOOOWAAAAAWOOOOOWAAAAAWOOOOOWAAAA
SHIT.


OH GOD, MAX-
HOW MANY LAWS...?
USE OF ILLICIT MATERIALS IN AN UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC EXORCISM-
U-USE OF HUMAN REMAINS IN A MAGICAL RITUAL-
YEAH, THAT *AND* WE FUCKED THIS PLACE UP REALLY BAD!
LET'S GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!!


MAXINE!!
WAIT!
MY BRIEFCASE!
AND MY GUM!
EEEOOOOO
EEEEOOOO
WWWAAAAAAA
WWWAAAAA
WWAAAAWAA
LY WEEKENDS!
...MAXINE.
WE CAN'T GO HOME LOOKIN' LIKE THIS.
JACK, I GET COVERED IN FLUIDS EVERY OTHER DAY.
I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT IT'S BLOOD FOR A CHANGE.
MAXINE, EVERYONE'S STARIN'.
YEAH?
I DON'T MIND.
LET 'EM STARE.


NOODLE
REMEMBER: G-O-T-T.
TWO "T"S!
MAXINE!
PETE'S SAKE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO KEEPIN' A LOW PROFILE?!
GET IN HERE!
-6001
DING
DING
SHEN NOODLE Noodle
OPEN
EL MAXO
VRRRRRRRRRRRRR
BUT=
NOODLE
OH, HELL-
MRS. QIAO-
AIIIEEEE!!!
WHAT IS THAT?!
ARE YOU INSANE?!
CALM DOWN, WE KNOW WHOSE IT IS THIS TIME.
GET OUT!!
GET OUT!!
555-6001
NOODLE Noodle
RRRRRR
EL MAXO
NOODLE
OKAY.
SHEESH.
SHEN NOODLE Noodle
555-6001
SHEN NOODLE Noodle
OPEN
EL MAXO


ZZZZZ
TINK
END

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